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Latin America

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Rio Group Asks Haitian Military To Honor Commitments

PY1011232793 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2110 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Santiago, 10 Nov (AFP-NA)—The 13 countries making up the Rio Group today issued another call to the Haitian military to honor "in good faith" their commitments in order to restore democracy in Haiti.

A communique issued in Santiago, where the headquarters of the regional organization chaired by Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma is located, says: "The Rio Group expresses its serious concern about the noncompliance with the Isla de los Gobernadores agreement."

The implementation of the agreement to allow the return of overthrown President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was one of the issues discussed during the summit held in Santiago in mid-October by the presidents of the Latin American and Caribbean nations that make up the Rio Group.

Without mentioning the military, the communique issued "a strong call to those who are hampering the restoration of democracy in Haiti and to honor their commitments in good faith."

The communique adds: "The Rio Group also confirms its firmest support for the measures taken on this issue by the United Nations and the OAS."

Group of Three Reach Basic Free Trade Agreement

PA1511040493 Paris AFP in Spanish 2201 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Report by Gabriela Selser]

[Text] Tlaxcala, Mexico, 14 Nov (AFP)—The ministers of commerce of Mexico, Colombia, and Venezuela held a news conference today to announce that their three countries reached a basic agreement on most of the subjects included in a regional free trade agreement. Mexican Commerce Secretary Jaime Serra said it is possible to complete the trilateral treaty "in November" because "significant progress" was made in the negotiations during this meeting, which began on Friday in Tlaxcala, 90 km from Mexico City, and which could end today.

Serra added that the chapters that have been "completely concluded" are the ones on agriculture, services, intellectual property, disloyal practices [practicas desleales], financial services, and solutions to controversies, which make up "the majority of the subjects" to be included in the agreement.

The issues still pending due to a few "details" are the ones on the program for the liberation of some industrial assets and on government investment and purchases, Serra added. Secretary Serra is optimistic about the way the negotiations are progressing.

The Mexican secretary said that the talks will continue because the three representatives plan to fulfill the mandate of the presidents of the Group of Three (given in October in Trinidad and Tobago) that calls for the conclusion of talks in November.

Meanwhile, Colombian Foreign Trade Minister Juan Manuel Santos said that the tone of the negotiations has been positive and that his country is negotiating with Mexico and Venezuela for "a formula acceptable" to the three nations in matters of government purchases, a sector in which "Colombia has no problems."

This topic has been one of the most discussed during the ministerial meeting in light of the fact that the two South American business sectors fear being affected by the priority that Mexico gives to the protection of its national products.

Regarding the agricultural issue, the Colombian representative said that products like corn and beans "have been excluded" from the treaty because these products are subject to various levels of subsidization in each of the three countries.

Another of the issues upon which, according to Serra, "a very satisfactory agreement was reached," was the one on intellectual property (trademarks and licenses) because "protection for the markets of the three countries" has been ensured.

In this sense, Venezuelan Foreign Trade Minister Miguel Rodriguez said that laws on this matter are established by the Andean Group and that they are similar to the Mexican laws. Rodriguez added that this is why an important agreement was reached to "prevent piracy."

The three ministers believe that once this negotiation has ended the text of the treaty will only have to be submitted for legal revision followed by the signing by the presidents.

The idea is to implement the tripartite free trade agreement, which will open a market of 130 million inhabitants, on 1 January 1994.

Jamaica, Colombia Sign Maritime Accord

FL1511023193 Bridgetown CANA in English 1643 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, 14 Nov, CANA—A maritime delimitation treaty defining sea boundaries between Jamaica and Colombia and pledges to strengthen regional linkages, highlighted a seven hour visit by Colombian President Dr. Cesar Gaviria here Friday.

The treaty under negotiation since February last year and signed by Foreign Ministers Paul Robertson of

Jamaica and Colombia's Noemi Sanin de Rubio, sets out maritime boundaries and defines the jurisdiction of each state.

While specifics were not immediately available, Jamaica's Prime Minister Percival Patterson told journalists the treaty, "further provides for a zone of joint management, control, exploration and exploitation of the living and non-living resources".

"It enjoins both nations to protect the living resources in the area, to preserve the marine environment and to undertake marine and scientific research which will help to promote sustainable patterns of development."

A communique issued at the end of the visit said that in addition to setting boundaries, the treaty establishes a "joint regime area" for "the joint management, control exploration and exploitation of the living and non-living resources".

Gaviria described the signing as "historic" with the promise of "new opportunities for Colombians and Jamaicans to utilise the resources of the ocean".

Both leaders who recently met in Port of Spain for discussions between Caribbean Community (Caricom) leaders and the heads of the group of three - Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela—reaffirmed their commitment to the proposed Association of Caribbean States (ACS) involving Caricom member countries and their Caribbean non-English speaking neighbours

Patterson stressed that the timetable for making ACS a "reality" by the 15th meeting of Caricom heads in Barbados next July "must be met".

This, he said, would need to be preceded by a technical meeting of the potential members in early January and a meeting at the ministerial level in March.

The ministerial meeting, he said, would review the recommendations made by the technical group and settle the "formal instruments" to establish the association.

Gaviria, who at 46, is one of the youngest leaders in this hemisphere, noted that it was no longer enough for Caribbean neighbours to only work together in such forums as the United Nations and the Organisation of American States (OAS).

"...In our increasingly global economy, these efforts are no longer enough. It is for this reason that Colombia has taken such a keen interest in the creation of the Association of Caribbean States and in developing stronger bilateral political relations and economic ties with the Caribbean. It is to advance this work that i come to Jamaica," he said.

On the current debate raging in the United States regarding the proposed North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Giviria argued that "whatever the outcome...the global trends are irreversible: the economies of the western hemisphere are becoming increasingly integrated. No nation, no people can afford to isolate themselves from their neighbours and from the opportunities for growth and development that are emerging in all nations of this region, both large and small.

"NAFTA has implications for our region and our own efforts towards greater economic integration. It is a crucial step towards broader trade liberalisation among all the economies of the Americas.

"NAFTA will decide if the world's largest economy, the United States, is to be an active participant in the process. It will determine at what pace we can all proceed towards freer trade throughout this hemisphere..."

The two leaders touched only fleetingly, in public, on the current negotiations for a trade agreement between Caricom and Colombia.

Gaviria noted that, "together, we can reach an agreement that will increase trade, investment and technology transfers..." He pledged his government's commitment to reaching an agreement that "benefits us all".

A Jamaican Foreign Affairs source told CANA that Caricom was striving to reach an agreement with one-way concessions similar to that signed with Venezuela last year while the Colombians wanted an accord with more reciprocal trade terms.

Both leaders expressed concern at the "worrying situation" in Haiti and stressed their support for all measures geared at "a peaceful and lasting solution". They also reaffirmed their commitment to the normalisation of relations with Cuba.

Central American Bank Signs Norwegian Line of Credit

PA1011215593 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1927 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 9 Nov (NOTIMEX)—The Central American Bank of Economic Integration (BCIE) press office announced today that they have signed a $25-million line of credit with the Norwegian Eksportfinans Bank.

The resources will be made available to Central American public and private sectors to acquire Norwegian goods, the BCIE communique added.

The document was signed on 8 November by BCIE Executive President Manuel Pacas Castro, Eksportfinans Vice President Jenike Berg, and Eksportfinans Legal Adviser Lars Borre Hasle.

Pacas Castro, former Salvadoran foreign minister, became BCIE executive president on 1 November, and this is one of his first official actions at the helm of the so-called "financial arm" of Central American integration.

Cuba

Castro: No Justification for 'Merciless' Blockade

PA1411040893 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Nov 93

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] There is no justification today for a cruel and merciless blockade of Cuba, President Fidel Castro said in an interview granted to Frei Betto, a Brazilian Dominican friar, which was published in the magazine AMERICA LIBRE and which was presented at the Martin Luther King Memorial Center in Havana.

The Cuban leader said that the United States is inventing pretext after pretext as conditions for improving relations with the island and lifting the blockade, which is more than 30 years old.

Fidel Castro pointed out that now when certain pretexts have disappeared such as the subversive struggle in Latin America, internationalist missions, and relations with the USSR, the U.S. Government is preparing slanderous campaigns related to human rights. In addition, the U.S. Government demands that Cuba establish certain internal political systems and reorganize its electoral system and democracy.

In another part of the interview, the Cuban president emphasizes that ties with Latin America have improved at all levels, both in the political and state fields. [sentence as heard]

Castro Meets With Ibero-American Mayors

FL1211130993 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro today visited the Convention Center and met with the president of and delegates to the meeting of Ibero-American mayors and councilmen. Fidel conveyed his greetings to all those attending the meeting.

In his opening speech Pedro Chavez, president of the Provincial Assembly of the People's Government in the capital, said: We take pride in the fact that Havana is at this moment the center of Ibero-American municipal organizations.

Chavez noted that the 55th anniversary of the Ibero-American Organization of Intermunicipal Cooperation [OICI] was commemorated here in Havana during the first Panamerican Municipal Congress. He added that international solidarity with the Cuban people is steadily growing around the world.

Tomas Rodriguez Bolanos, president of the OICI and mayor of Valladolid, stated that the meeting of Ibero-American municipal organizations is highly significant and that the OICI is determined to cooperate with Cuba. Rodriguez spoke at the opening ceremony of a meeting of Ibero-American municipal delegates in solidarity with Cuba, which is being held at the Convention Center in this capital.

The OICI president urged Ibero-American mayors and councilmen to act as spokesmen for the unfair situation Cuba is experiencing and to continue to hold meetings of this nature in Havana. He said he regards himself as a Havana resident and that when he goes back home he will work to help Cuba overcome this situation. He said that he will begin working on this as soon as he leaves Cuba.

Receives German Art Collectors

FL1211212893 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro held a fraternal meeting with German scholars Peter and Irene Ludwig, copresidents of the Ludwig Foundation and world-renowned art collectors. The Ludwigs explained to Fidel the positive results of the various projects being conducted with the cooperation of the National Fine Arts Council, which include the promotion of contemporary Cuban art in Europe, scholarship exchanges, and preparations for the forthcoming exhibition in Germany and other European countries of the works to be included in the Fifth Havana Biennial in March 1994.

As part of those ties, an extensive collection of contemporary Cuban art will be exhibited in several German museums. This is sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Steider, who are accompanying the Ludwigs on their trip to Cuba. Ludwig explained to Fidel and other meeting participants the idea of creating a Cuban foundation to promote Cuban and Latin American art in Europe, which Ludwig will support.

Castro talked about the system of Cuban art schools created and other aspects of the cultural transformation in Cuba.

Foreign Minister Arrives in Trinidad and Tobago

FL1311020393 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] On his tour of Caribbean countries, Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina arrived today in Trinidad and Tobago. Our special correspondent, Ruben Pino, has details:

[Begin Pino recording] In his meeting with Prime Minister Patrick Manning, Robaina conveyed the greetings of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and briefed him fully on the whole of the economic changes taking place on the island.

Prime Minister Manning reiterated his desire to take advantage of Cuban experiences through cooperation in the areas of specialists in radiology, tourist development plans, and alternate energy sources.

Robaina today also conferred with his Trinidadian counterpart, Ralph Maraj. After the meeting, the two ministers gave a news conference that was widely covered by the leading local radio and television networks.

This afternoon Robaina was also received by (Cowton Bowie), vice rector of the University of the West Indies. They discussed prospects for professional cooperation in higher education.

During his busy agenda in Trinidad and Tobago, Robaina also met with opposition leader Basdeo Panday, with members of the Trinidad and Tobago-Cuba friendship association, and with a group of Protestant pastors who are friends of Cuba.

Tomorrow, Robaina is scheduled to meet with executives of (Nial and Massey), one of the main business groups in the Caribbean, which has great interest in establishing economic and trade ties with Cuba. By mid-morning, the Cuban delegation will depart for Barbados. [end recording]

Meets With Manning, Businessmen

FL1311192393 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Patrick Manning, prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago, expressed to Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina his commitment to explore new forms of cooperation between both countries, primarily in the health sector. Manning was particularly interested in the possibility of contracting radiology specialists and exploring alternative energy sources, as well as projects to boost tourism between both countries. Patrick Manning sent a special message to Fidel Castro through Robaina and stressed he was pleased with the visit which is part of Robaina's tour through seven Caribbean countries.

Likewise, Foreign Minister Ralph Maraj stressed that this tour will contribute greatly to Cuba's full integration with its geographical neighbors. This morning, Robaina held a working meeting with executives of Neal and Massy, one of the most powerful commercial corporations in the Caribbean, which has expressed an interest in establishing economic and trade ties with Cuba.

Afterwards, Robaina departed en route to Barbados. Later on his tour, Robaina will visit St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Jamaica, and the Bahamas, ending the tour on 20 November.

Meets Foreign Minister in Barbados

FL1411235793 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Report by special correspondent Ruben Pino in Bridgetown, Barbados]

[Text] As part of his official tour of seven member countries of the Caribbean Community, Caricom, Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina arrived at noon today in Bridgetown, capital of Barbados.

Before departing Trinidad and Tobago, Robaina held an interesting working meeting with executives of Neal and Massy, one of the largest Caribbean private enterprises based in Trinidad. During these talks, [words indistinct] businessmen of the region in establishing economic and trade ties with our country, based on steps already taken, in the areas of sugarcane byproducts, industrial gas, salt, and other products.

In Barbados, Robaina was received today by his Barbadian counterpart, Maurice King. On this occasion, Robaina made his first remarks about this tour to radio and TV reporters. He said that because we are going through a different time, when many of the ideas on which Caricom was conceived have changed just as there have been changes in the Cuban reality, the Caribbean cannot isolate itself from the trend toward integration prevalent today in the world and should take into account what other regions in the world are undoubtedly doing.

Tomorrow, Robaina will give interviews to the Caribbean News Agency and to other media and to members of the Cuban community residing in Barbados. These are the latest details of the fourth day of the Cuban foreign minister's tour of the Caribbean.

Describes Tour as 'Positive'

FL1511023693 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina, who has been in Barbados since yesterday, has made exclusive remarks for our newscast about his Caribbean tour, which will conclude next week.

[Begin Robaina recording] We consider it to be a highly positive experience to the extent that it has been our fundamental objective on this tour to convey to the Caribbean region what Cuba is seeking at such a difficult and complex situation as the one it is undergoing. At the same time, we are seeking to hear the opinions of Caribbean officials about those issues we have to face together.

The main characteristic of this tour is that it is taking place at a special moment. It is special because we are about to implement the creation of the Joint Cuba-Caricom [Caribbean Community] Commission, which is scheduled to be signed on 13 December. It is also a special moment because Cuba is also being considered in the preparations that will pick up momentum in January for it to take part in the Association of Caribbean States.

We have clearly found here great understanding, great respect, and a great desire to promote the integration of the Caribbean region, as the countries of the region have always sought. [end recording]

Rossello's Mediation Offer Termed 'Unacceptable'

FL1511010393 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Commentary by Juan Marrero]

[Text] Puerto Rican Governor Pedro Rossello Gonzalez's offer to have his country act as a natural liaison to promote commercial ties between Latin America and the United States is both inappropriate and unacceptable. Even more unacceptable are his remarks concerning Cuba.

Gov. Rossello offered to act as a mediator in the Cuban-U.S. conflict to the effect of reportedly promoting a political change in Cuba and thus giving a new chance to democracy and freedom. These are totally disrespectful remarks, for the peoples of Puerto Rico and Cuba and for the rest of the Caribbean and Latin American community.

They are disrespectful remarks, in the first place because Rossello, given his role as a promoter of Puerto Rico's annexation to the United States, is completely unqualified to speak in the name of Puerto Rico, Cuba, or Latin America. Besides, not a single drop of his blood is committed to the cause of independence, sovereignty, democracy, and freedom.

Rossello is governing a people who have been forced to adopt a citizenship that is not theirs; who have been forced to live under laws that are not theirs; who have been forced to accept a foreign language in their educational system; and who have been forced to participate in imperialist wars such as that of Vietnam, where Puerto Ricans were used as cannon fodder. Rossello has never opposed any of this. On the contrary, he now wants to make Puerto Rico another state of the union and thus do away with the cultural heritage and identity of that Caribbean country.

It is equally offensive for any Latin American to hear Rossello speak about democracy and freedom because there is neither in Puerto Rico. The United States certainly allows Puerto Ricans to elect a government every four years and administer its own bicameral legislative system and its own judicial system. Yet, all this is just a hoax because the Puerto Rican government cannot enter into international agreements and cannot not even decide who may visit the island, because the Puerto Rican legislature may not pass laws that would go against those approved by the Capitol in Washington, and because the Puerto Rican judicial system is entirely subordinate to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In sum, Puerto Rico is a caricature of democracy and freedom. How dare Rossello, then, give us lessons about these concepts. Rossello also talked about promoting a political change in Cuba. Perhaps he wants in Cuba a change similar to that he is proposing for Puerto Rico. He is completely mistaken. Neither an annexationist like him nor those staying in Miami will have either voice or vote in Cuban internal affairs, whether as mediators, interlocutors, or whatever they may want to call them. If changes are to be made, this decision will be made only by the Cuban people. This is also a job for great people, and not for weak individuals like Gov. Rossello.

Vice Foreign Minister on British Business Prospects

FL0911195293 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Vice Foreign Minister Isabel Allende Karan visited Great Britain recently. She talked about the results of the trip:

[Begin Allende Karan recording] I believe the visit had positive results because it allowed us to establish an informative dialogue on the Cuban situation and gave us a chance to report on all the measures recently taken by our government in terms of the opening to foreign investments and existing possibilities to develop ties between Cuba and Europe in general, and with Great Britain in particular.

In addition to the talks held at the British Foreign Ministry, I had an opportunity to talk with several businessmen and held a conference on Cuba and possibilities for economic cooperation opening in Cuba at the (Canning House), i.e., the Portuguese-Hispanic-British Institute. Approximately 50 British businessmen attended the conference to learn more about Cuba. I met with the Cuban-British group of the House of Commons and we exchanged opinions on the situation in Cuba, how the Cuban process of integration into the global economy is progressing, in general. I also briefed them on Cuba's current reality and how Cubans are confronting this special period of economic difficulties. [end recording]

The vice foreign minister also referred to British interest in investment possibilities:

[Begin Allende Karan recording] There are many interests in diverse sectors of British business. This is not the first time that British businessmen were briefed on possibilities in Cuba. In June, we had a visit by a delegation of the Council for Commerce With the Caribbean headed by Baroness (Jones). This delegation saw in situ the opportunities for business. This March, the Euromoney conference was held in London. There was a broad participation of British businessmen in this conference. There is a possibility of holding similar conferences to provide British businessmen more information on Cuba. [end recording]

Allende Discusses European Investments

FL1311033093 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Today in Santo Domingo, Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Isabel Allende stated that the EEC is in the best position to promote investments in Cuba under the

current circumstances. Allende is participating in the sixth Caribbean-European Conference that will conclude on Friday at the Jaragua Hotel in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Allende pointed out that Cuba has a highly trained work force, an unused and diversified industrial capacity, and a good transportation infrastructure. Allende went on to say that these conditions can be put in the service of Caribbean enterprises to generate new formulas for trade with Europe. Afterwards, Allende spoke of the economic crisis Cuba is going through because of the blockade imposed by the United States for more than 30 years, which has been condemned by the international community, and the disappearance of the European socialist bloc.

Allende stated that rejection of the blockade is being expressed with great force in Europe and expressed her hope that reason may prevail in U.S. policy so that a path is opened for the normalization of relations between the two countries on a basis of complete mutual respect. The diplomat went on to talk about the creation of the Cuba-Caricom Joint Commission that will give a new boost to the development of relations between Cuba and countries of the region.

UN Delegation Denounces 'Forcible Repatriation'

FL1111025893 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Today at the United Nations, Cuba denounced the forcible repatriation of refugees and described this practice as a violation of the basic rules governing international law.

The Cuban delegation to the third committee of the UN General Assembly noted that in the 1970's Cuba gave shelter to many refugees who were forced, for various reasons, to leave their countries of origin. The delegation also noted Cuban assistance to Haitian citizens during the flow of Haitian emigration to the United States.

The Cuban delegation added that measures in this area pose the risk of creating coercive action from that which is purely humanitarian by nature.

Balaguer Addresses Cuban Journalists Union

FL1311032493 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Report by Carlos Sanabria Marrero in Santiago de Cuba; passages in quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Politburo member Jose Balaguer Cabrera today closed the provincial session of the sixth congress of the Cuban Journalists Union [UPEC] here in Santiago de Cuba Province. More than 40 delegates have focused on the need to defend the Revolution and its achievements through a press that should be in keeping with the circumstances the country is experiencing.

"The one thing there can be no doubt about is that we must be first in releasing information. There is absolutely no doubt about that. Life has given us proof of this.

"At times we are faced with highly complicated information, which we may find difficult to release or which we may feel should be withheld, or that we should delay. Life has given us proof that if we are the first ones in speaking, in releasing the information, both the international news agencies and those of the enemy remain silent.

"This happens because whenever we release news or information along with our reasons and arguments, then we are solid. And we have reasons justifying any news, any event, irrespective of its nature, whether it concerns rafters who die in their attempt to reach Miami or whether our coast guards open fire and a complicated situation ensues.

"We have reasons and arguments to explain our actions and to demonstrate that our society, the leadership of our country, our government, our units, our coast guards, our militiamen, our Armed Forces are deeply imbued with a high, humanitarian spirit and that they are incapable of committing the atrocities taking place in some countries that claim to be democratic. On the contrary, our people have gone so far as risking their lives to protect and to save the lives of some of these people who are leaving the country, when they attempt to leave either on rafts or through crossing the naval base.

"We are strong enough to prove that this is a Revolution imbued with a profound human sense."

Balaguer also emphasized the need for collective work in managing media organizations and that they must report objectively on any issue, because there is no taboo issue here and because the truth is on our side.

"I repeat that the idea here is to tell the truth, and we must do that in such a way that when the people see and interpret our reports they are interpreting the truth. There is no taboo issue here. Everyone must be well aware of this.

"Who says that we may not talk about the prostitution around tourism? Who says that we may not talk about those women accosting tourists [jineterismo]? Who says that we may not talk about the rafters who are leaving the country?

"No matter how complicated an issue may be, there is no subject that we may not discuss. We want this to be quite clear. All that we say must be within the correct ideological context, such as focusing on the rafter issue without failing to point out who is ultimately responsible for the deaths of the rafters in the Florida Straits. Does anyone harbor any doubt as to who has the main responsibility for these events? Nor should we overlook the historical fact that since 1 January 1959 the Americans have been

trying to take people out of Cuba. These two examples are applicable to any other topic, to any other subject."

After addressing other topics of major interest to the work of Cuban journalists, Balaguer concluded by saying:

"The party has unlimited confidence in both Cuban journalists and the media. Judging from the description you have made here, from the analysis made here, from the remarks heard here, from the criticism you may have made here, we are fully convinced that you are driven by a profound revolutionary sense of doing things right, of defending the Revolution, and of facing the special period as you should; and we are absolutely confident that you will do that. Thank you."

CPC Leader Comments on Relations With Republic

FL1211162193 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Zhang Boxing, CPC provincial secretary in Shaanxi Province, has stressed possibilities for increasing scientific/technical and commercial cooperation between Shaanxi Province and Cuba because ever since the 14th party conference, local governments have greater economic interaction with foreign countries. Zhang also expressed his people's and party's support for Cuba, and expressed confidence that a satisfactory way out of the island's current economic difficulties will be found. He described current bilateral relations as very good, stressed the historical ties between the two nations, and recalled that Cuba had helped China when China was trying to recover its seat at the United Nations.

Visits UJC National Bureau

FL1211193193 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] The CPC delegation visiting Cuba since 9 November is meeting today with the National Bureau of the Union of Young Communists [UJC]. Zhang Boxing, member of the Central Committee of the CPC, heads the delegation which has been conducting diverse activities since its arrival in Cuba.

Zhang, who is also first secretary of Shaanxi Province, traveled along with six Central Committee specialists from that province. The province, which has 33 million inhabitants, is over 1,000 km from Beijing. This province is considered the cultural, economic, and scientific and technological center of western China.

Visits Ministry of Basic Industry

FL1311020193 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2320 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Today the CPC delegation from Shaanxi Province, headed by Comrade Zhang Boxing, visited the Ministry of Basic Industry [Minbas]. Zhang Boxing and his delegation were met by Rodrigo Ortiz, Minbas vice minister, who briefed them on the role of that ministry.

The CPC delegation is visiting Cuba to learn the reality of our country and the efforts made by our people to overcome the situation. The delegation previously visited the Scientific Hub of the Eastern Havana. They plan to visit other production and education centers and to meet with other Cuban officials. Zhang Boxing spoke of economic issues in Shaanxi Province, specifically on efforts to find sources of energy.

Sugarcane Harvest Begins at America Libre Complex

FL1311170993 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1501 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] The 1993-1994 sugarcane harvest began today in the America Libre Agroindustrial Complex in Santiago de Cuba Province. The decision to begin with this mill responds to the results in industrial readying and the first test run of the mills, which was described by Sugar Industry Ministry specialists as outstanding.

At 0600 the mobilized cutters entered the fields. They will be in charge of providing enough cane so that on 15 November the grinding can begin in the America Libre Mill. In a meeting held at the mill, the workers ratified their commitment to conduct an efficient harvest and to meet the sugar production plan as they have done for 30 consecutive years.

Alarcon on NEW YORK TIMES Editorial

FL1011151293 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Telephone interview with Ricardo Alarcon, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, by Jose Mejias—live]

[Text] [Mejias] Good evening, Comrade Alarcon.

[Alarcon] Good evening; how are you, Mejias?

[Mejias] Very well. This evening we have been talking about the UN decision to condemn the U.S. blockade against Cuba for a second consecutive year, which was described yesterday by the NEW YORK TIMES as an unprecedented humiliation for U.S. diplomacy. We have talked to Wayne Smith, and, as you have just heard, with Lucius Walker's daughter and we would like to hear your opinion on the matter.

[Alarcon] I believe that what the NEW YORK TIMES presents in its editorial yesterday is a reflection of what a growing number of U.S. citizens are thinking. They are worried about an obvious situation: A world where there is only one superpower, where the United States presents itself as the great winner of the Cold War and even tries to create an unipolar world, etc. At the same time, it receives a vote at the UN General Assembly that clearly demonstrates that it is completely isolated in its policy to

try to isolate Cuba. In other words, it is the besieger who remains isolated. The blockader ends up blockading himself before the growing opinion of the entire world. In addition, it is a policy that lacks any type of justification. It was never justifiable. It has always been illegal, it has always been contrary to international rights. But now, it lacks logic in a world where there is no longer a Cold War or a confrontation, where so much is said about the changes that have taken place in the world with the elimination of the risk of nuclear weapons, etc.

Now, where does the problem lie? The fact that a newspaper with a liberal bent and with certain influence among the policy makers in the United States made such statements is very interesting. There is a new administration in the United States, a government that was elected last year, as everyone knows, and has been in power only a year. It is a government that, in reality, is not responsible for the application of that policy. The policy of the blockade against Cuba goes back more than 30 years. Nevertheless, we are talking about a government that must answer to the United Nations. In other words, they must give the United Nations their response to a resolution that, since last year and this year with greater support, demands an end to the blockade. The Bush administration was still in power last year when the UN General Assembly voted the first resolution against the blockade.

[Mejias] You were there at the United Nations.

[Alarcon] Yes, I was there. I was there even before, since the year before; because when we presented the matter for the first time, it seemed a very difficult process with many obstacles and much U.S. pressure, which has been breaking down little by little. It is curious that just two years ago, U.S. power was smaller yet more effective. They could block the discussion at the United Nations. The following year, in 1992, the first resolution was passed but with a smaller vote than that obtained this year. Now it is 88 against four. That means that the U.S. pressuring capacity, surprisingly, despite being stronger today, relatively speaking—or it appears that way, they are the great power of the universe—nevertheless, they cannot stop the growth of this movement against them.

The Clinton administration has been in power for a year. They are still acting with regard to a resolution that was taken in response to a policy prior to the current administration. Where is the problem? Next year, this U.S. Government must declare what they have done with regard to this resolution that was approved by the UN General Assembly in a more definitive and forceful way. It has adopted the resolution, knowing that now Bush is no longer president but Clinton. There is no longer a figure related to the 30 years of anti-Cuban policies; now the president is a man who was in school at the time of the beginning of the blockade against Cuba.

Next year the situation for this administration will be much more difficult and complex. I mention this because we must view with equanimity and serenity what a result of this international kind represents. A resolution by the UN General Assembly carries great legal, moral, and political weight. The states are supposed to take into account what the majority of the Assembly decides. It exerts a certain influence but it is not obligatory. There is no way to make the United States comply with what the UN General Assembly has said. At the same time, there is a clear element of pressure and influence because it generates things like these: editorials in U.S. newspapers that are alarmed in light of a situation that the United States confronts with countries that are allied to them and places them in front of the entire world. That cannot go unremarked by a politician. Something must be done about that. He will react and do something.

Now, next year, if they have not changed their policy, if they have not lifted the blockade, one must wait for the UN General Assembly not only to reiterate what it has said this year, but to do so with much more strength and an even greater vote. And it may be even more difficult for this administration to justify the continuation of that policy because it would no longer be an inherited policy but their own, because the Assembly General has just told them that they must change this policy and that this policy is not acceptable.

Therefore I believe we are entering a year that will be very interesting because it will be the year in which this new administration, which is different from the rest as we have seen in its language and its moderation with regard to the Cuban issue, a certain flexibility, and a certain desire not to be involved in something that was not theirs after all, but something that existed before, will have to answer for themselves. That is the reason I believe it very important that this debate be discussed and analyzed, which I am sure will take place in the United States. Just look at yesterday's press that came out with this editorial, which will have its repercussions and will produce comments from others. This is a newspaper that carries a lot of weight because its editorials and lead articles are distributed and reproduced in a great part of the U.S. press, not only in this New York newspaper; I have already heard comments about a newspaper in Dallas and California. This will generate more debate and discussion on the topic.

[Mejias] Comrade Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, I would like to thank you for your words here for the "Exclusive" program of Radio Rebelde, Havana, Cuba.

Commercial Protocol Signed With Vietnam

FL1211212193 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] A commercial protocol for 1994 between Cuba and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam was signed in Havana by Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas and his Vietnamese counterpart. The Vietnamese minister and the delegation accompanying him also met with Carlos Lage, vice president of the Council of Ministers.

The meeting allowed both sides to analyze the economic process of both countries, as well as bilateral relations perspectives.

Visa, Cooperation Accords Signed With Yemen

FL1111121093 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Today in Havana, Cuba and Yemen signed a visa issuance agreement and a cooperation protocol between the foreign ministries of the two countries.

(Ahmad Deis), undersecretary for political affairs of the Yemeni Foreign Ministry; and Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Mario Rodriguez signed the agreements.

Commentary Assails U.S. on Alpha 66 Threats

PA1111022693 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Commentary by Roberto Morejon]

[Text] During a news conference that was held in Miami last Thursday, and which was permitted by U.S. authorities, the Cuban-born Alpha 66 terrorists announced specific threats against tourists who travel to Cuba. The Alpha 66 terrorists, who have carried out many actions of sabotage and other criminal actions to destabilize Cuba, broke from their regular training exercises in the swamps of the Everglades to meet with reporters with absolute tranquility on that Thursday. The reporters were told that starting on 27 November, Alpha 66 will make use of its forces in Cuba—according to what they stated—to rob and mug tourists and even to kidnap them and ask for ransom, if necessary.

Alpha 66 and other terrorist groups, such as 19 April L (Liberty) Commando Units and Omega 77, have always dreamed of terrorizing Cuba. Now they believe they can succeed by hampering tourism, one of the Cuban Government's top sources of revenue in the current economic crisis. The possibility of criminal actions like those announced has been ruled out because the state's security agencies and the people's vigilance will thwart these subversive plans. This conclusion is prompted by another view of the announcement. One wonders about unscrupulous individuals who receive unhindered training and then threaten a nation not at war with the United States, the country in which these adventurers live.

If, as the U.S. Government says, all of the country's agencies combat terrorism both within and outside the country, why are armed bands permitted to be organized in an effort to infiltrate Cuba? We must bear in mind that Alpha 66 also bitterly criticized the 150 U.S. citizens who traveled to Cuba in mid-October to challenge the economic embargo against the island—a blockade the visitors labeled discriminatory because it hampers their freedom to travel. The FBI had said it would keep Alpha 66 under surveillance. Even if this is true, this would only be a benevolent stand, which in truth encourages the terrorists. Authorities are legally and morally bound to adopt strict measures because threatening tourists is not a small thing. What would the U.S. Government and Congress say if an armed group threatens U.S. tourists anywhere in the world? The same strong action that would be taken in such an instance should be taken against Alpha 66.

Commentary Examines U.S. Position on El Salvador

FL1111180293 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Nov 93

["Reflections" commentary by Orlando Contreras]

[Text] With [word indistinct] that resemble those of the prince of Denmark in the Shakespearean drama, President Clinton has to decide, in El Salvador, whether or not to assume the Republican legacy of Reagan and Bush. To be or not to be [preceding six words in English] is the question, after THE NEW YORK TIMES, in a detailed denunciation based on intelligence reports and on the unfreezing of secret State Department documents, made public the fact that former administrations were aware that high-ranking Salvadoran figures had planned and carried out horrible crimes such as, among others, the murder of Archbishop Arnulfo Romero and that of a group of Jesuit priests.

A lengthy State Department document says former Salvadoran strongman Colonel Roberto d'Aubuisson was involved in those murders, as were generals and current Salvadoran Vice President Francisco Merino, as well as the Salvadoran ruling party's presidential candidate, Armando Calderon.

The under-secretary of state for inter-American affairs, Alexander Watson, arrived in San Salvador today on an official mission to that traumatized Central American country. He said he was there to reiterate the United States' support for the peace process and national reconciliation. UN Under-Secretary General Marrack Goulding also arrived in the Salvadoran capital Monday, for the public purpose of verifying compliance with the November 1992 agreements, which as you know put an end to an internal war that lasted 12 years and left close to 100,000 people dead.

In reality, both Watson and Goulding are in El Salvador because the increase in murders of members of the opposition—today a political party, the Farabundo Marti party—is threatening to cause the peace process to collapse. Members of a death squad similar to the one that operated during the war with official consent [anuencia]—and sometimes even planning and execution—are accused of being the authors.

But, if Washington today repudiates those crimes, in order to be consistent with that decision it has to cut itself loose from the policy of the Reagan-Bush era. Apparently Washington feels that to have unfrozen some

12,000 secret documents on human rights violations in El Salvador is enough. However, those documents implicate former President Bush, back when he was director of the CIA, since he was informed by his agents even before those abominable murders were committed.

On the other hand, it would not hurt to recall that U.S. military aid to the Salvadoran regime in power back then exceeded U.S. $1 billion, in addition to equipment and training. Therefore, concerning the crimes being denounced today, those who committed them and those who supported the murders, or simply did not oppose such events, bear similar responsibility for them. Is this responsibility going to be assumed or not? Is the legacy of the Reagan-Bush foreign policy going to be maintained, or is a new one, one in keeping with the reality of the current times, going to be laid?

Is one, or is one not? That's the question. [preceding sentences in English]

Arguments Used To Deny Musicians U.S. Visas Noted

FL1211162593 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] The U.S. State Department has denied five members of the musical group (Mezcla) a visa to enter the country. (Mezcla) was going to perform in some 10 cities, along with its director, U.S. citizen Pablo Menendez, who has been living in Cuba since the 1960's.

The guitar player, singer, and composer, who is American, said that it is not in the interests of his country to have artists such as the (Mezcla) artists go to the United States and return home, because that would destroy the image of Cuba that the United States is trying to impose: that Cuba does not let musicians out of the country because when let out, they desert.

Pablo Menendez also says that another of the arguments used to deny the performers a visa is that there is no intercultural exchange justifying (Mezcla's) presence in the United States, because U.S. musicians are not allowed to perform in Cuba—and they forget that he himself has not only studied and worked on the island but even lives there, with no problems.

Health Agreement Signed With Argentine Municipality

FL1011152193 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] The Ministry of Public Health and the Argentine municipality of Rosario have signed an agreement for scientific and technical cooperation in the health field. Cuban Public Health Minister Julio Teja and (Hermes Biner), health secretary of Rosario, Argentina, signed this agreement at the Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital.

Moments before the ceremony, the 23 members of the Argentine delegation, while visiting the Finlay Institute, allowed themselves to be vaccinated against meningitis as a gesture of solidarity and to show, in their country, how effective the vaccine is.

It has also been learned that the EC's humanitarian office has decided to assign to Cuba aid worth $6 million, $850,000 of which will be earmarked for financing the raw materials for making Neovitamin II. During the presentation of the program in Havana, it was announced that this aid is in response to Cuba's request for help in tackling disease.

Oil-Drilling Operations Announced for Mid-December

FL1211162793 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Engineer Marcos Aguilera, director of the Matanzas Oil Enterprise, has announced to Radio Progreso that drilling for oil will begin in mid-December in the Bay of Cardenas—precisely, in the Cupey geologic structure, near Punta Hicacos. Aguilera added that a self-elevating, type AG-5 platform, leased by a Canadian firm to drill an initial 3,500-meter well, will be used for the first time in our country. This work of exploration in the Bay of Cardenas will take approximately 60 days, and both Cuban and Canadian technicians will participate in it with the objective of revealing the existence of oil in that promising area.

Also, drilling in the sea—for which, on this occasion, a French firm will be responsible, in collaboration with Cuban technicians, as part of the program to promote prospecting for oil in our country —will begin shortly in the Bay of Santa Clara, in the environs of Cayo Blanco.

Havana Veterans Assembly Closes Creation Process

FL1311151193 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Report by Mario Huber Garrido from Havana National Theater—live]

[Text] The assembly to establish the Veterans Association in Havana will begin in the National Theater precisely at 1400 GMT. This meeting closes the process in the country in preparation for the national-level conference which will be held in December.

Today, very early in the morning, the over 360 delegates laid wreaths at the Jose Marti and Commander Ernesto Che Guevarra monuments in Revolution Square and the Interior Ministry headquarters respectively.

Havana has over 1,600 base-level associations totaling 59,647 members. Approximately 65 percent of them are members of the Communist Party of Cuba or the Union of Young Communists, and 5,348 are females. The participants in the assembly will discuss a central report and elect the members of the provincial leadership and delegates to the national conference. Among their most

immediate tasks there is the political and ideological work to promote the fulfillment of the guidelines outlined by the commander in chief for the special period; strengthening the structures of the territorial defense system; and studying, researching, and disseminating the combat history of the provinces.

The topmost goal of the Veterans Association is the unconditional defense of the Revolution.

First Anniversary of Camaguey 'Military Granges'

FL1011152693 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Today, 10 November, is the first anniversary of the military granges, an appropriate moment to think about the results achieved by those bodies that began here in Camaguey Province and are already productive. The first such grange in the nation, established in a cane-growing area in the vicinity of Providencia in the La Sacra mountains, is made up of fighters from the Youth Labor Army who, in managing the cultivating and harvesting, have moved forward with a sure step in the important task of cane recovery. Increases in the per-caballeria yields of more than 10,000 arrobas are already being seen there. This indicates steadiness in the work, because they suffer from the same lack of resources as other places.

In this connection, we can talk about tasks related to self-sufficiency, since at the first of the nation's military granges—this one in Providencia, here in Camaguey—the fighters who constitute the grange produce the grains, meats, tubers, and vegetables they consume, although they need to increase volumes.

There are already 10 military granges in Camaguey devoted to producing cane, covering somewhat more than 2,000 caballerias, where a hard battle is being fought in cane recovery and where their first goal is to be awarded a banner in that activity in Camaguey. A good start for a first anniversary!

Correction to Castro Comments on Career Shifts

WA1511164593

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Castro Comments on Career Shifts, Defections," published in the 10 November Latin America DAILY REPORT, pages 1-3:

Page two, column one, last paragraph, sentence three, make read: ...Nicolas Guillen and Wilfredo Lam; it is an... (correcting name)

Antigua and Barbuda

Russia Invites Observers To Monitor Elections

FL1111031093 Bridgetown CANA in English 2040 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] St. John's, Antigua, 10 Nov, CANA—Antigua and Barbuda said Wednesday it had been invited to send a mission to Russia to observe legislative elections due in December.

Antigua and Barbuda's External Affairs Ministry said the Russians wanted to satisfy the international community the poll "is free and fair." The ministry said the "timing for the invitation from Moscow is therefore ideal and opportune as it reinforces the point that Antigua and Barbuda is viewed internationally as a leader in its administration of democratic elections." The invitation, the ministry said, "is viewed in diplomatic circles as a significant gesture, especially since it comes on the eve of local general eletions, due constitutionally by mid-next year."

Antigua and Barbuda has invited the Organisation of American States (OAS) to monitor the poll here. The European Community announced Tuesday that it was honoring its commitment to securing democracy in Russia by sending a mission to observe the election. The EC said "the observers would work with other international bodies, notably the Council of Europe and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe."

Bermuda

Swan Responds to U.S. Decision To Close Base

FL1011192793 Bridgetown CANA in English 1558 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Hamilton, Bermuda, 10 Nov, CANA—Bermuda must "get on with the job" of taking over the operation of its airport, Premier Sir John Swan has said. Sir John was responding to an announcement that Washington is to cut off funds for the United States Naval Air Station base on September 1, 1995.

U.S. Defence Secretary Les Aspin must table a plan for closing the base at St. David's by next March 1, the Senate and House Armed Services Committees have agreed. The base opened more than 50 years ago.

"I was hoping to get a bit more time," Sir John said in a telephone interview from Tortola in the British Virgin Islands where he was attending a meeting. However, he said Bermuda must prepare to take over the base.

The Senate/House Conference Committee's agreement was released jointly by House Armed Services Committee Chairman Ron Dellums and Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sam Nunn. The closure was announced as part of a proposed 261 billion dollars (US) U.S. defence budget—two billion dollars less than President Clinton wanted.

The St. David's base, which opened after British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt signed an agreement in 1941, has contributed million of dollars annually to the Bermuda economy. Sir John had hoped for a five-year withdrawal by the U.S. military. Estimates of what the base closure will cost Bermuda have arranged from five million dollars to 23 million dollars a year. In addition to what the Americans spend on supplies and housing, Navy personnel operate the airport and provide weather forecasting for the island. But the new agreement "prohibits the use of Department of Defence funds to operate NAS Bermuda after September 1, 1995".

Said Sir John: "It gives us some time to continue to work with U.S. Navy to ensure that we maintain not only an air operation but a facility that meets international requirements." It was too early to say how that would be accomplished, he said.

In the past few months the premier has met British Prime Minister John Major, U.S. President Bill Clinton, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Secretary General Dr. Manfred Woerner and others in a bid to stop or delay closure of the base. The agreement, already made public in Washington, must still be voted on in the House of Representatives and the Senate but is expected to become law by Christmas.

Meanwhile the pullout by Canadian forces from their Bermuda base will be completed by the end of the year. Talks over the transfer of the base at Daniel's Head to Bermuda are continuing between Canada and the Bermuda Government. April saw the red maple leaf officially lowered for the last time at Daniel's Head. Since then there has been a steady withdrawal of personnel. A base spokesman said just 18 people remained.

Haiti

Malval Considering Broadening Government

FL1211181993 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Robert Malval is considering broadening his government to include other political forces in order to consolidate democracy. In an interview granted to the Latin American magazine DIAL, Robert Malval said he thinks that it is indispensable to extend the democratic power to some sectors which did not directly support the 16 December 1990 project but which accept the main lines. The Haitian prime minister revealed the weaknesses of his government but also its strength. The obstacles are many and take on a triple aspect—political, social and psychological. According to Robert Malval, the government does not have the means to gather its strength and to organize to thwart the different armed groups which frequently attempt to destabilize the government with the complicity of the Armed Forces. Neither does the government have the economic means to carry out a social policy which would allow it to lighten the sufferings of a population reduced to extreme misery. The third aspect that Robert Malval explains to the magazine DIAL is that his government does not have the means of communication necessary to counter a systematic campaign of disinformation aimed at creating or giving the impression that the government is powerless. However, says the prime minister, in this difficult transition, the democratic forces benefit from two main assets, the unconditional support of the international community and the fact that the obscurantist forces which are opposed to the process, have no option nor alternative to offer to the people. To save democracy and institutionalize it in Haiti, the prime minister foresees not only the broadening of power, Robert Malval also wants the unity of the church. According to the Haitian prime minister, the current unpopularity of the official church stems from its stands at the time when the Haitian people needed the moral support of the church. However, says Robert Malval, this weakening of the church is not a good thing for the future of democracy. Finally, the prime minister hopes that the different trends that exist within the church find dialogue again, unquote [no beginning quote as heard].

Those were statements by Prime Minister Robert Malval in this interview granted to the Latin American magazine DIAL, carried by the Haitian daily HAITI EN MARCHE.

Defense Minister Says Cedras' Letter 'Illegal'

PA1311151993 Paris AFP in Spanish 1340 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Port-au-prince, 13 Nov (AFP)—Retired General Jean Beliotte, Haitian defense minister, rejected on 12 November the letter with sanctions Army Commander in Chief General Raul Cedras sent to him. Beliotte said the letter was "illegal."

General Cedras ordered Jean Beliotte to "10 days in detention" for having sent him written observations, which, according to Cedras, is a violation of regulations.

"The letter's function is illegal, and its form is inconceivable and unacceptable," says Beliotte, attributing the 10 days of arrest to the "selfish personal satisfaction of a chief" who has power in his hands.

"Must I remind you, General, that you are not the head of a military government?," writes Beliotte, stating that he is "a member of a constitutional civilian government."

"Whereas, as minister of national defense (...) I am only responsible for my actions before the parliament," says the minister in his letter, read by a private radio station of the capital, Radio Tropic FM.

Jean Beliotte rejects the accusations according to which he presented a "plan for the destruction of" the Army, which was rejected.

In that regard, the minister explains that he had presented to General Cedras "a constitutional concept (of an army) with double vocation, defense and development," capable of participating with civilian society in literacy campaigns, forest repopulation, the struggle against drug traffic, and the prevention of natural disasters.

Senator Tells of Violent Plan for Aristide's Return

FL1211205393 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Senate President Firmin Jean-Louis stated that two men, making themselves out to be military, recently attempted to trap him by proposing violent means to expedite the return of President Aristide. The alleged soldiers made the offer as part of a secret plan to solve the Haitian crisis, according to Senator Firmin Jean-Louis. They told him they wanted to ask President Aristide to provide them with weapons and ammunition introduced into the country through the American Embassy, specified the senator. The two people who represented themselves as part of the military unit of the National Palace also addressed letters to UN/OAS Mediator Dante Caputo and to U.S. Ambassador William Swing, soliciting their help, according to Senate President Firmin Jean-Louis, who asserted that he requested the Army command to investigate.

Shell Refuses To Comply With Order on Gas Sales

FL1211202893 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] If the [oil] companies do not comply, the National Association of Petroleum Products Distributors [ANADIPP] and the Haitian Justice Department will act accordingly, Justice [Enock] Voltaire [said]. [passage omitted]

We learned from well-informed sources in the capital that Shell has refused to deliver its stock—as required by the Haitian Justice Department—because of the embargo imposed on Haiti. Shell considers the judicial injunction served on it to be inadmissible, this source adds. [passage omitted]

According to judicial sources, this refusal will entail legal action by a court bailiff assisted by the public security force. Prime Minister Malval's government has refrained from commenting on this matter.

Courts Deny Shell Recourse

PA1411015193 Paris AFP in Spanish 0012 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 13 Nov (AFP)—According to reports by judicial sources in Port-au-prince, the Haitian courts denied a recourse filed on Saturday by Shell, one of the three oil companies operating in the country, to exclude itself from the mandatory distribution of its fuel reserves.

Shell had presented the action on Saturday morning at an appeals court. Meanwhile, a judge accompanied by a policeman appeared at one of Shell's service stations in Thor, south of the capital, to demand compliance with the court order.

The United Nations ordered the freezing of Haitian fuel reserves after resuming the oil embargo against Haiti on 18 October. The embargo is directed at forcing the military in that Caribbean nation to return to the path of democracy.

The judicial branch ordered the three oil companies operating in Haiti—Shell, Esso, and Texaco—to make their fuel reserves available to the market, thus responding to a complaint filed by the National Association of Petroleum Product Distributors (ANADIP).

The reserves would provide Haiti with an unrestricted supply of fuel for seven weeks.

After consultation with their head offices, however, the companies said the demand was "unacceptable."

Henock Voltair, judge of a special emergency court, ordered the sentence to be carried out. Judicial sources indicated that this could occur next Monday following a decision on one last recourse filed by the company.

Business Owners Interviewed on Economy

FL1011225493 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Report by Louis Mercier Bellevue—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Bellevue] The oil embargo ordered against the country by the United Nations has seriously affected the functioning of business in Haiti, according to statements by businessmen we interviewed.

One businessman, who did not wish to have his statements recorded, said: During this period, we have bought fuel on the black market: one gallon only, for $25 [125 gourdes], while we have problems selling our goods to a population that virtually has no money. He added, among other things, that he does not see how to face this fuel crisis. He himself plans to close the shutters of his store if the crisis persists, but not only him. One out of every 10 stores downtown have not opened their doors. A businesswoman told us that the entire society is affected by this fuel shortage: I have been obliged to use my personal car for my employees so they can come to work, she said. I have had enough! is the cry of this businesswoman who does not know what to do. [passage omitted]

Interviewed by Signal FM, the owner of one of the major stores on the main street asserted that one dares not

speak of sales for the time being in commercial undertakings. This is an immediate consequence of the oil embargo. It is an economy of subsistence that is now practised here in Haiti, she told us [in Creole]: I cannot call this sales, I call it survival instead. The person comes to buy some product because he needs it. I have the impression that it is only after much, much thought that the person finally decides to come and buy the product, if he realizes that he really needs it. [passage omitted]

This businesswoman, who thinks our society is moving toward a vast decline, predicts a total collapse of the system. Those who are taking advantage of the crisis today will certainly pay dearly for it tomorrow, given this crisis, which is long in being resolved.

Louis Mercier Bellevue for Signal FM.

Tropic FM Journalist Suffers Second Armed Attack

FL1011213693 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] A Tropic FM journalist was injured on 8 November by a gunshot wound to the hand, inflicted by unknown armed civilians who forced him into a taxi in downtown Port-au-Prince. Emmanuel Laurent was forced into a taxi occupied by armed men who tried to force him to disclose the address of another press member, Venel Remarais, head of the Haitian Press Agency, by threatenin him and striking him with a rifle butt. While escaping from the car and fleeing to a gully, Laurent was shot in the hand by his attackers, who had opened fire. According to the journalist's testimony, those shots would have indicated that the men were chasing a thief.

It should be noted that Emmanuel Laurent had previously been victim of an attack on 8 September, when he was hit with a stick by neoduvalierist elements while he was working on the report of the aborted return of elected Port-au-Prince Mayor Evans Paul.

Second Group Threatens To Encourage Mass Exodus

FL1011221893 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Excerpt] The UN economic sanctions are the main topic of debate this week. People's organizations hold the international community responsible for the failed process of democratic transition. Can the population withstand new sanctions, asks the Association of Young Christians of Delmas [Association des Jeunes Chretiens de Delmas, AJCD]. The leader of the Sun of Justice for Liberation of Haitian People's Organization [Oganizasyon Soley Jistis pou Liberasyon Pep Ayisyen, OSJLPA] has gone further. It asserts that if a solution is not found within 15 days, it will encourage a massive exodus of Haitians toward U.S. coasts.

[Begin recording, in Creole] [AJCD spokesman] We in AJCD are wondering if the international community cannot find a solution to this crisis which is crushing the Haitian people. First, we are experiencing hunger, we are starving to death. Now, we have the problem of an oil blockade and many other sanctions that are going to be imposed on us again. I am wondering whether the people can stand what they plan to impose on them. What measures will the current authorities take? Will they let the Haitian people die, or what will they do?

[OSJLPA spokesman] We in the OSJLPA say the crisis must reach an end this week because if the crisis continues for 15 more days, we will encourage people to try reaching the United States aboard small boats because it is the Americans who have entangled the crisis. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Drug Landing Strip Discovered in Cap-Haitian

FL1111000193 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Excerpts] A secret landing strip used by drug smugglers was discovered in Cap-Haitian. Two people were arrested. Our correspondent Jean-Claude Larousse filed a report:

[Begin Larousse recording in Creole] In Cap-Haitian, following an investigation last week, the Information and Joint Coordination Center, CICC, led by Captain Jean Thomas Nelson, discovered a new secret landing and takeoff strip used by drug smugglers. At the time, two people were arrested. A fake kg of cocaine, a crack rock, and five 38-mm cartridges were found.

This new secret landing strip is located at Lilet Point de Sable, Petit-Anse, on the sea side of Limonade, about four km east of Cap-Haitian. It would take a sailboat about 45 minutes to reach this area [point of origin not provided]. During the discovery, the press, which was invited, collected information from several fishermen, who stated that several planes landed in this area several times, sometimes at night. [passage omitted] The fishermen also stated that a section of this area is known for organizing trips for boat people. Sometimes the passengers lose their lives during those secret trips.

Captain Jean Thomas Nelson told the press that the CICC, in coordination with the Department of the North's military, will be taking measures to destroy this landing strip. Let us point out that besides Madrasse, this is the second landing strip that the authorities discovered in the Department of the North.

Let us recall that during his last visit to Cap-Haitian, Colonel Antoine Atourist, CICC director general, had called on all sectors of national life, particularly in the Department of the North, to cooperate with the center in reducing drug traffic in Haiti. Col. Attourist made this call in the Mont-Joli Hotel during a seminar on drugs in August.

Jean-Claude Larousse, Cap-Haitian. [end recording]

Correction to FOPPS Assistance to Boat People

FL1011233393

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "FOPPS To 'Assist and Encourage' Boat People," published in the 10 November Latin American DAILY REPORT, page 6:

Make sourceline read: ...Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 9 Nov 93 (correcting time).

St. Kitts and Nevis

Simmonds Announces 29 Nov General Election

FL1111121293 Bridgetown CANA in English 0053 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Basseterre, St. Kitts, 10 Nov, CANA—St. Kitts and Nevis prime minister, Dr. Kennedy Simmonds, on Wednesday announced a November 29 general election. Nomination day is November 19.

Addressing the nation on radio and television, Simmonds said he had "advised the governor general to dissolve parliament today" and "issue the proclamation to enable a poll to be conducted in the sovereign nation of St. Kitts and Nevis."

Simmonds' People's Action Movement [PAM] has been in power 13 years, with the Nevis Reformation Party as its partner.

The PAM's main opponent is the St. Kitts and Nevis Labour Party, headed by 39-year-old medical doctor, Denzil Douglas.

In the address, lasting 35 minutes, Simmonds appealed for re-election to continue a programme he said had wrought a social and economic "miracle" in the twin-island federation. He listed among projects to be "activated" soon by the government—a 38.7 million dollar (one East Caribbean dollar = 37 U.S. cents) expansion of the Golden Rock Airport; construction of a 6-million-dollar judicial and legal complex; and a 6.5-million-dollar college of further education.

There are also plans for a 17.5-million-dollar water system expansion project; a 29-million-dollar electricity expansion scheme; and an 8.5-million-dollar hospital upgrading and expansion project. Simmonds also said the government planned a 20-million-dollar road development programme.

"We are considering a 55-million-dollar town expansion and integrated port complex, which is to be constructed on 25 acres of reclaimed land in Basseterre," Simmonds announced. "This extention to Basseterre will accommodate a marina, cruise ship berths, general cruise ship facilities, and commercial and shopping areas."

A national sports stadium and a town centre were also being built, the prime minister said.

"Construction has begun on the 250-room Hyatt Regency Resort at South Friar's Bay. A 150-suite family resort is to be constructed at Banana Bay," he added.

Simmonds said his government was also preparing for a major housing construction programme and an "all-out war" on illicit drugs. Pointing out that "well-known" persons were linked to the drugs trade, Simmonds said his government planned to "prosecute to the fullest extent" those involved in the trade. It would also seek to confiscate their ill-gotten gains, he reported. He said his government was prepared to spend up to a million dollars to prepare a "winning" team for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia.

Calls for Peaceful Process

FL1111234393 Bridgetown CANA in English 1914 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Baseetterre, St. Kitts, 11 Nov, CANA—St. Kitts and Nevis' political parties on Thursday geared for what prime minister Dr. Kennedy Simmonds hopes is a peaceful general election. Dr. Simmonds, announcing the November 29 poll Wednesday night, asked citizens to avoid "unsavoury conduct" and "excessive utterances" and to demand "the highest standards of conduct" from candidates.

"I must impress upon each and every one of you, my fellow citizens, that your conduct during the elections campaign can enhance or cause untold damage to the good name and development prospect of our country," he said. "I therefore call on all citizens to ensure that our elections will proceed peacefully and without unsavoury conduct of any kind."

Simmonds added: "I ask you ... to be vigilant against any excessive utterances, any action during the campaign which may sully the good name of our nation and which may jeopardise all that you have done to earn the respect and envy of other people in so many other nations."

The prime minister asked voters to demand the highest standards of conduct from elections candidates.

"I appealed to you to exercise your constitutional right and civic responsibility by voting for the candidate and the party you are convinced offers the best assurance of continual harmony and prosperity for our country," he said.

Mexico Hopes Trade Agreement Can Boost NAFTA Chances

PA1511043593 Paris AFP in Spanish 2309 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Tlaxcala, Mexico, 14 Nov (AFP)—The United States would be "the most affected" if it "turns its back" on the world integration process, Colombian Foreign Trade Minister Juan Manuel Santos said today during a news conference in Tlaxcala, 90 km east of Mexico City. The Colombian minister heads his country's official delegation at the Group of Three (G-3) talks at which Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela are attempting to reach a trilateral free trade agreement.

"The United States must understand that the world is integrating and it cannot turn its back on this process, because that country would be the most affected," Santos said when referring to the impact an agreement of this type would have on the approval of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between Mexico, the United States, and Canada.

The G-3 ministerial meeting began on Friday in Tlaxcala and it is not known whether the treaty will be completed or whether talks will continue between the technical groups of the three nations.

Sources close to the negotiators have sensed that the Mexicans are in a hurry to conclude the G-3 agreement before Wednesday, when the U.S. Congress must either reject or approve NAFTA. According to a Venezuelan businessman, Mexico wants to conclude the agreement in a hurry because it wants to send "a positive sign" to Washington that could influence the decision of U.S. legislators.

According to Santos, the negotiation of the G-3 agreement is a process "independent" of NAFTA, "but they complement each other," which is why this agreement would have "a positive" effect on NAFTA.

The negotiators today announced that important agreements regarding most of the topics included in the trade agreement had been reached. The chapters that have been concluded are the ones on agriculture, services (telecommunications and transportation), financial services, disloyal practices, intellectual property (trademarks and licenses), and the solution of controversies. According to sources close to the negotiators, pending conclusion are the chapters dealing with the program for the liberation of industrial assets and government investment and purchases, a topic surrounded by strong differences.

Approval Could Prevent Boycott of U.S. Goods

PA1411215293 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2009 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Ensenada, Baja California, 14 Nov (NOTIMEX)—The commercial blockade against U.S. products scheduled for 20 and 21 November may not take place if the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA] is approved on 17 November.

Jesus Gonzalez, a member of the Mexican Congress Border Affairs Commission, explained that NAFTA's confirmation may generate changes in the U.S. Government's immigration policies to which Mexican consumers are opposed.

Gonzalez argued that the apparent stringency of the U.S. Government's policies is a temporary strategy by President William Clinton to gain the U.S. Congress' approval of NAFTA.

Gonzalez, a congressman for the National Action Party, said Clinton is attempting to convince the labor unions that NAFTA will not create unemployment in the United States, and to that effect he has agreed to impose temporary restrictions on immigration to the United States.

Gonzalez believes it would be "detrimental" to undertake a commercial blockade against U.S. firms to protest those anti-immigration policies, because 80 percent of industry and trade on the Mexican border is supplied by those firms.

He said that in the event the blockade is carried out, it should only be staged by border residents who "receive their supplies" from commercial establishments in California; "otherwise, industry and commerce based in Baja California would be paralyzed."

Gonzalez said: "I believe the blockade should be symbolic, an expression of nonconformity. The problem should be resolved through diplomatic means."

Civic organizations on the Mexican border are promoting Operation Dignity on 20 and 21 November, which consists of boycotting U.S. companies.

Argentina 'Unconditionally' Supports NAFTA

PY1211124793 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 0307 GMT 12 Nov 93

[No video available]

[Text] Last night Argentine President Carlos Menem conveyed a message of support for the North American Free Trade Agreement, NAFTA, which involves the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The news conference, which was held at the Hyatt Hotel in Buenos Aires, was attended by Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella and the ambassadors of the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

[Begin Menem recording] The Argentine Republic unconditionally supports NAFTA, and wishes to convey to the three countries involved its respect, admiration, and good wishes for the success of this endeavour.

Argentina wants the governments of the three countries involved to know that it feels very close to them, and that

it encourages them to keep working to bring this project off. Argentina has growing hopes that other countries will gradually join the efforts to establish free trade or integration zones like the Common Market of the South.

We have called this news conference to give the president of all Argentines the opportunity to publicly express his people's and, of course, his government's position on this issue.

I reiterate to the Mexican, Canadian, and definitely to the United States Government our respect and our admiration for this task, which is almost finished and which will benefit the entire continent, according to what has been agreed upon in this process for the establishment of a free trade zone in the northern part of this continent. [end recording]

Latin American Presidents Comment on NAFTA

PA1211183893 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0400 GMT 12 Nov 93

[From the "24 Hours" newscast; all passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Excerpt] Five Latin American presidents and the governor of Puerto Rico spoke to the "24 Hours" newscast.

First, in Tegucigalpa, President Rafael Leonardo Callejas of Honduras:

[Callejas] "We resolved, at the presidents' summit held in Guatemala, to support the free trade agreement."

In San Jose, President Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier of Costa Rica:

[Unidentified reporter] "Costa Rica considers that the criticisms of NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement] are unfounded and maintains its favorable opinion regarding that agreement.

"Upon commenting on the debate on that topic by U.S. Vice President Al Gore and multimillionaire Ross Perot, Rafael Angel Calderon, president of that Central American nation, stressed the differences between the two of them."

[Calderon] "It was a debate between a statesman, Vice President Gore, a man of great vision regarding his people's development and with a great view of the world, against a businessman who was only interested in his personal affairs."

[Reporter] "The Costa Rican president also praised the virtues of the treaty."

[Calderon] "I believe that treaty will favor Mexico, the United States, and Canada very much; and later, all the nations of Latin America because this treaty will open the path to attaining a great hemispheric free trade agreement. This treaty will create jobs because, by giving 90 million Mexicans the opportunity to produce more and sell more, they will have better living conditions and better conditions to buy more products from the Unites States. Free trade brings advantages both ways. Advantages for the great powers and advantages for the developing countries."

[Reporter] "Regarding the criticisms made by Ross Perot of Latin American countries, President Calderon was categoric."

[Calderon] "Well, that is the vision of a man who is only interested in his personal affairs; his business affairs, on the one hand, and on the other, he is looking for votes."

[Reporter] "The president asserted that NAFTA will eventually favor Central America and insisted that it is very positive."

[Calderon] "Costa Rica has been supporting [NAFTA] in all aspects, due to solidarity with Mexico, on the one hand—a country with which we have always had the best relations—but on the other hand, also for our own convenience."

In San Salvador, President Alfredo Cristiani of El Salvador:

[Cristiani] "We have supported the signing of NAFTA at different forums, as a country and as the Central American region. We believe it is positive as a first step toward a continental free trade agreement. This means that free trade is not limited exclusively to North America, but has been designed to extend to the rest of the continent. In that sense we support it, we believe it is good, we believe it is positive for all the countries. It will bring progress to all, and we can all benefit from it.

"With regard to what Mr. Ross Perot said, it appeared to me that was more of a demagogic defense of his stance, than a real defense with a technical basis. I believe Vice President Gore was much more technical and explained clearly what the effects and benefits of NAFTA can be. Mr. Perot just dedicated his time to criticizing Mexico and saying that Mexico is not worthy of entering an agreement with the other.

"I feel that was taken to a very demagogic extreme and did not really stay on the subject. The proof is that the American people, according to the polls, say Vice President Gore was the better speaker by a wide margin. It appeared that Mr. Perot was still on the campaign of two years ago."

In Guatemala City, President Ramiro De Leon Carpio of Guatemala:

[De Leon] "I believe the statements by Mr. Ross Perot were derogatory toward Latin America and I do not think they should have had that tone. We are, somewhat, poor and underdeveloped peoples, but very dignified peoples.

"Furthermore, although it is true that we need the developed countries, the northern countries in this case, they need us too and I believe there should be some

mutual respect, particularly in a televised debate in which I believe there should be a high moral and ethical quality in the arguments. It is not just a matter of defeating the person they face, but also of maintaining respect because we are all human beings and the Latin American countries, regardless of how small some of them might be, deserve absolute respect from any person in any part of the world."

In Buenos Aires, President Carlos Menem of Argentina tonight:

[Menem] "The Republic of Argentina unconditionally supports NAFTA and conveys to the peoples of these three countries the respect, admiration, and, of course, the wishes for their success in the completion of this endeavor.

"I want to be very close to the authorities of these three countries and encourage them to continue to work for that goal, with the hope, renewed every day, that other Latin American countries will also undertake these efforts to establish free trade zones or zones of integration the same as those we are undertaking here in the Mercosur [Southern Cone Common Market]." [passage omitted]

Communique Notes Colombian President's Support

PA1311033793 Paris AFP in Spanish 2256 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 12 Nov (AFP)—A Narino Palace spokesman reports that, while in Kingston, President Cesar Gaviria described as historic an agreement signed today between Colombia and Jamaica. The agreement defines maritime limits in the Caribbean Sea and will allow for the appropriate use of ocean resources.

During his official visit to Jamaica, the president was able to broach several issues, such as cooperation mechanisms in the struggle against drug trafficking and bilateral commercial relations.

Gaviria reiterated his defense of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which is currently being debated in the U.S. Congress, recalling that NAFTA is important for the continent and its efforts to achieve continued economic integration.

"This is a crucial step toward a greater liberalization of commerce on the American Continent. The process has already started with initiatives such as the Andean Pact, Mercosur [Southern Cone Common Market], and the Group of Three, as well as through bilateral agreements and our own efforts in Caricom [Caribbean Common Market]," the Colombian president stated.

According to the official communique, Gaviria asserted that NAFTA will decide "at what pace we will be able to advance toward more liberalized trade in this hemisphere."

Chamorro Administration Supports Ratification

PA1411033593 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1824 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Managua, 13 November (DPA)—The Nicaraguan Government today expressed its hope that on 17 November the U.S. Congress will ratify the North American Free Trade Agreement, NAFTA, among Canada, the United States, and Mexico.

An official communique from the Violeta Chamorro administration stated that the implementation of that treaty and the creation of a free trade zone "constitutes the first step toward a hemispheric treaty as it permits the future incorporation of other Latin American countries, which will increase their competitiveness, thus broadening their possibilities for development."

The document added that in expressing its hope that the U.S. Congress will ratify the treaty, the Chamorro administration shares the desire of all Central American countries "as stated in the note sent by the Central American presidents to U.S. President Bill Clinton on 28 October during the 14th Summit of Central American Presidents held recently in Guatemala."

Solana: U.S. Opinions About Mexico Unacceptable

PA1511010193 Paris AFP in Spanish 2324 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Mexico City, 14 Nov (AFP)—A communique issued on Sunday by the Mexican Foreign Secretariat quotes Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana as describing as "unacceptable" the opinions about Mexico "voiced by high-ranking officials, legislators, and businessmen" from the United States "to convince the U.S. Congress either to vote in favor or against" the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

"NAFTA is only a trade agreement," and "the future of Mexico—with or without the treaty—depends exclusively on the Mexicans' capacity to increase the volume and quality of their production and to improve their standard of living and lifestyle," added Solana.

Only days before the U.S. Congress is due to vote on NAFTA on 17 November, U.S. authorities and individuals from the private sector expressed their opinions about Mexico's social and political systems, which most Mexican political parties and local social sectors consider offensive.

"We reject these offensive expressions about our social and political lifestyles," and "it should be very clear, both to those who recognize and support Mexico's efforts as well as to those who express the opposite, that the decisions and the application of policies that affect our country's future will be decided upon exclusively by Mexicans," the foreign secretary said.

Solana concluded that "neither the Mexican people nor the Mexican Government will accept in this case or in others any sort of meddling in the domestic affairs of our country."

Perot Remarks Spark Debate Among Deputies

PA1211231093 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0400 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Report by Juan Jose Prado—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Ross Perot's statements continue to prompt censure, the latest of which came today in Mexico's Chamber of Deputies.

During the Chamber of Deputies session, the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party], PAN [National Action Party], PFCRN [Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction], and PPS [Popular Socialist Party] parliamentary blocs signed a political declaration strongly condemning the hostile statements against Mexico made by U.S. businessman Ross Perot during his televised debated with U.S. Vice President Al Gore.

The parties that abstained from signing the political declaration include the PARM [Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution] and PRD [Party of Democratic Revolution]. PARM Deputy Adolfo Kuntz Bolanos said his party did not support the declaration because the PARM believed the deputies' time was too valuable to waste on charlatans such as Ross Perot. PRD Parliamentary Coordinator Deputy Ricardo Valero indicated his party abstained from signing because of differences with not only the content but also the manner in which the declaration was drawn up. The PRD's decision to abstain from signing the declaration prompted a heated debate.

[PRI Deputy Rodolfo Becerril, president of the Foreign Relations Commission] "The declaration conforms to other declarations issued by PRD members to the press yesterday, when they described what Mr. Perot said as being offensive. We do not understand how, for the sake of turning this issue into a partisan whirlpool, they have now decided to go against what has been a nationwide reaction, as well as a reaction by national figures, with respect to what Mr. Perot said. I do not know which is more dangerous: Perot, whose name sometimes can be mistaken for Pierot, the madman, or the local Perots who are insistently trying to boycott a commercial agreement to the point of agreeing with those who express opinions against the country."

PFCRN Deputy Octaviano Alaniz Salamis stated the following:

[Alaniz Salamis] "It would be necessary to point out that the PRD, as has already been stated here, has expressed its point of view. These opinions were expressed by well-known and important PRD personalities. Here, we are hearing a different position.

The same thing happens when they travel overseas, especially to the United States, where they express opinions different or contrary to the positions of our country and our institutions—expressions that run counter to the dignity of all of us. On several occasions, they have even undertaken trips to support well-known individuals involved in U.S. politics. Now they are saying that they are against some U.S. politicians. Today they support Perot's position. I am getting the impression that they have picked him to occupy the position of president of a PRD grass-roots commission in the United States." [applause]

Later, during questioning by PRD Deputy Jorge Calderon, PFCRN Deputy Alaniz Salamis asked for an explanation from Calderon, who is PRD coordinator for free trade agreement issues.

[Alaniz Salamis] "Some time ago, Deputy Calderon, you and other PRD deputies toured the United States, specifically Washington, where you did a great disservice to the Republic of Mexico. In addition, you were in no way discreet when discussing the issues and our national problems. On the contrary, you did it in a contemptuous manner, as renegades and turncoats."

Deputy Calderon called on Alaniz to withdraw his statements. In reply, Alaniz said he would withdraw the statements if Calderon acknowledged that he had adopted an anti-Mexican position while in the United States. Neither deputy retracted his remarks.

PRD Deputy Jesus Martin del Campo answered:

[Martin del Campo] "We also would like to say that the PRD is not willing to reply to insults which, by way of their content, show what kind of people who are making them. Nevertheless, we are critical of the PRI, which is this chamber's majority bloc, because its representatives are the ones with whom we are willing to enter a debate and against whom we are constantly attempting to initiate a debate.

"As a result of the majority weight it carries, this party is of leading importance. Moreover, it is only with this party that we are interested in debating all issues being discussed here.

"We are censuring them because of the cheap tricks they have resorted to in an effort to confront the opposition, despite the fact that as a majority bloc their party has more than 300 deputies it can resort to. We are criticizing them for turning to fools, simpletons, and lowlifes who only come here to trigger arguments backed by sycophants in a display that only serves to belittle this chamber. We do not plan to reply to second-rate politicians. We only plan to discuss the issues with those who run the circus."

PAN and PPS deputies also commented with respect to the televised North American Free Trade Agreement debate that took place in the United States. The political declaration signed by the PAN, PRI, PFCRN, and the PPS, and which was not signed by the PRD, is aimed at informing the national and international communities of the Mexican deputies' position with respect to the offensive statements against Mexico made by Mr. Ross Perot. Likewise, the document will be forwarded to the Foreign Relations Secretariat in order for this office to determine what course it should follow.

Salinas: Education Reforms To Raise Competitiveness

PA1111160393 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 9 Nov 93

[From the "Good Morning From Mexico" newscast]

[Text] While the confirmation process for the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA] continues in Washington, President Carlos Salinas has said that if Mexico wants to penetrate international markets it must raise its competitiveness and efficiency by bettering its education system. Ten days before the U.S. Congress votes on NAFTA, international organizations are still arguing the advantages of the trade agreement.

The Organization of Young Presidents, made up by 73 countries, met with President Salinas and warned that a NAFTA failure would create an opening for forces opposed to modernization, who would enforce stale and worn out methods.

Meanwhile, President Salinas said at Los Pinos official residence that an education transformation is required in Mexico for reasons of efficiency and equity.

[Begin Salinas recording] It has been proven that the higher the level of education, the better the distribution of income. Thus, educational reforms are also important because they will generate equality. [end recording]

The need to increase efficiency has been quite obvious at the National Railroads.

[Begin Salinas recording] Much must be done to make our railroads capable of competing with other nations. [end recording]

Salinas said the government supports the modernization of the country's railroads. He headed the celebration of railroad workers' day and inaugurated the University of Tel Aviv's second meeting for Latin America and Spain, during which he earnestly hoped for peace in Israel.

Finance, Commerce Secretaries on Inflation

PA1411194493 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0400 GMT 10 Nov 93

[From the "24 Hours" newscast—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Finance and Commerce Secretaries Pedro Aspe Armella and Jaime Serra Puche spoke in Mexico today.

Finance Minister Pedro Aspe Armella said inflation in Mexico this year will be less than 8 percent, and he pointed out that the fiscal and monetary policies that have served as the pillars of the country's structural adjustment program will not be enough without a concerted social effort, such as the one being carried out under the Stability, Competitiveness, and Employment Pact (PECE).

Mr. Aspe spoke about Mexico's economic strategy during the second meeting of Governors and Friends of Tel Aviv University, which is being held in Mexico City.

[Aspe] "For the government to achieve balanced and sustained growth, deep institutional changes are needed that can lead to permanence, credibility, and the promotion of the individual's active participation in the country's economic life."

Another speaker was Commerce Minister Jaime Serra Puche, who announced that on 12 November he will meet with his Colombian and Venezuelan counterparts to put the finishing touches on the trade agreement of the so-called Group of Three.

[Serra Puche] "Colombia, Venezuela, and Mexico have agreed to include a provision in this treaty to allow Andean countries to join and take advantage of this economic opportunity, which we are about to finish drafting with Colombia and Venezuela."

Jaime Zabludovsky, coordinator of the International Negotiations Department of the Commerce and Industrial Development Secretariat, talked about Mexico's economic opening and the outlook of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

[Zabludovsky] "We have to recognize the integration that is already taking place in North America, guide it, and give it a more clear and predictable framework of certainty."

The Tel Aviv University-sponsored meeting of Israeli, Latin American, and Spanish professors, researchers, and economists sponsored will continue through Friday 12 November.

OECD Admission Not Dependent on NAFTA

PA1111030393 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1822 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Paris, 9 Nov (NOTIMEX)—The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) denied today that the negotiations for Mexico's eventual admission into this organization depend on the North American Free Trade Agreement results.

OECD Director Jean Claude Paye, who gave a news conference to announce the publication of a study on the Uruguay Round, said that "Mexico's eventual entry into the organization will not be determined by the results of the trilateral agreement in the U.S. Congress." He added: "Mexico's entry into the OECD will be determined by the 24 member countries which will consider if this country can comply with the organization's criteria."

According to Paye, who said the result will be known in the next six to 18 months, "this is a difficult process about which nothing has been written. Mexico has good chances of approval, however, considering previous candidacies."

On another topic, the secretary general of the economic forum admitted that "the conclusion of the Uruguay Round cannot solve all of the world's commercial problems, but, if it is not ended, there is a great risk that a protectionist process will begin."

Last July the OECD called Mexico to commerce talks to establish the terms for becoming the 25th member of the club, which is comprised of the most industrialized countries in the world. Mexico, which participates in 10 OECD committees, requested its formal incorporation into the international forum in 1991.

To enter the OECD, a country has to be invited by the 24 members, have a market economy and a democratic system, and respect human rights. According to OECD statistics, Mexico has a per capita income superior to those of several OECD countries, such as Turkey and Greece, and its economic growth during the next years will be higher than most of the member countries. The report adds that despite the fact that Mexico's per capita income has decreased in the past years, it is the highest among the countries that do not belong to the organization.

The forum has special rules to accept new members. The last member to join the OECD was New Zealand in 1973. The country that joins the organization of industrialized states loses its status as a developing nation and any type of preferential treatment in the commercial sector. If it is accepted, Mexico would be the first Latin American country to form part of the OECD.

Parliament Members, Hungarians Discuss Trade Issues

PA1011173093 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2244 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Mexico, 8 Nov (NOTIMEX) - Mexican and Hungarian parliament members meeting in Mexico City agreed today on the need for the international community to formulate a new agenda for a new world order in the aftermath of the Cold War and to define trade blocs. During a Mexico-Hungary inter-parliamentary meeting, they both pointed out that this new agenda, the formulation of which has been put off, must include social benefits and lasting solidarity along with full respect for sovereignty and the self-determination of nations. The private meeting, held in the Senate of the Republic Grand Commission, was headed by Senate Grand Commission Chairman Emilio M. Gonzalez and Hungarian Parliament Vice President Alajos Dornbach.

During his remarks, Dornbach acknowledged the people and Government of Mexico's "valuable support" and solidarity proffered during the political transformation and economic adjustment of his country.

For his part, Gonzalez emphasized that Mexico is open to the world and will continue down this road because all Mexicans have agreed on this. "Commercially, we want to be part of the organizations formulating policies that will influence development." He acknowledged the role played by legislators and political parties in modernizing nations and emphasized that ideological diversity strengthens the democratic system.

The Hungarian parliamentarians' agenda during their five-day official visit to Mexico includes meetings with President Carlos Salinas de Gortari scheduled for today, as well one with Ulises Schmill Ordonez, president of the Supreme Court of Justice. The Hungarian delegation also plans to meet with Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana, Attorney General Jorge Carpizo, and Trade Secretary Jaime Serra Puche.

* Sodi de la Tijera on PRI Democratization Split

94CA0026A Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 29 Sep 93 p 3

[Report by Salvador Guerrero Chipres]

[Excerpt] In the government and in the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) there is "a clash between the hardliners who do not accept democracy in the nation or in the party, and the PRI majority who want change and do not fear electoral competition," stated Demetrio Sodi de la Tijera, an assemblyman who belongs to that political organization.

He indicated that the 1994 election will be "heavily contested," and that no one will win more than 50 percent of the vote.

The former federal deputy contended that "the government and many PRI members are still determined to control the elections and their results, and they are willing to go as far as necessary to prevent any threat to the party's victory; they do not want a repetition of 1988, and they are prepared to control and manipulate the elections and the results in advance."

He was heard by more than 250 persons who attended the forum "Scenarios in Mexico," organized by EXCELSIOR. At the forum, the editor of that newspaper, Regino Diaz Redondo, claimed to have evidence of the "serious developments that will take place" between now and the presidential elections. He noted that maturity and intelligence will be required to prevent "verbal and bloody violence."

Sodi de la Tijera, speaking in the auditorium of the Mining Palace, stated that the confrontation between the two factions in the PRI is part of a combination of factors that make for "a not very propitious climate" for the federal elections.

At the beginning of his speech, the assemblyman who chairs the Ecology Committee indicated that the question is no longer which party and which candidate will win, since "the triumph of the PRI is still a sure thing, and furthermore, there is no longer any fear that the opposition might win. The question that remains is whether the upcoming elections will be legitimate."

In addition to that doubt, it is uncertain how the opposition and the citizenry will react to the results. It is unknown "whether, on the contrary, the irregularities and problems that occurred in 1988 will be repeated," and whether the people he called the "losers" will reject the results and will urge the citizens, as they did back then, to protest and to prevent "what they consider to be election fraud."

What is certain about the selection of the next president, he said, is that there will be a great deal of competition, and agreements should be reached right now "to guarantee political stability and peaceful electoral processes." International opinion will be a "fundamental" factor, he noted. However, "political pluralism has come to our government," he declared, citing the fact that there are governors of opposition parties.

"To bet on an overwhelming PRI victory that will leave no room for doubt, as they did in 1991, would be to ignore the reality of national politics." [passage omitted]

Belize

Prime Minister Asks Governor General To 'Step Down'

FL1311174593 Bridgetown CANA in English 1657 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Belize City, 13 Nov, CANA—After weeks of speculation in the media, Belize's Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel confirmed he has asked governor general, Dr. Dame Minita Gordon to step down from her post.

Prime Minister Esquivel, speaking on Radio Belize's "One on One" current affairs programme, said he did not wish to tarnish the dignity of the office by asking the queen, who is head of state, to directly remove the governor general, so he had invited her to tender her resignation.

Under the Belize Constitution, the governor general, who must be a Belizean, is appointed by the queen and holds office during "her majesty's pleasure" as her representative here, as is the case in most commonwealth countries where the queen is head of state.

"The appointment of a governor general is not a lifetime appointment," Esquivel said. "The queen, by the written Constitution of Great Britain, and the governor general, by the written Constitution of Belize, acts with the advise of government ministers."

Esquivel, whose United Democratic Party (UDP) was elected to government on June 30, said it was the wish of his government to appoint a new governor general and he had already recommended another Belizean to replace Dame Minita. He declined to give the name, saying an announcement would come from Buckingham Palace.

The opposition People's United Party (PUP) has condemned the government's move to replace Dame Minita, saying it is all "part and parcel" of their alleged campaign of political victimisation. "They've been removing people who are competent and dismissing them just on political grounds," said former attorney general Glen Godfrey.

Senator Wilfred Elrington, a candidate for the ruling party in the last election, told Channel Five news he believed the governor general "slows down the process of government" because from time to time she would query bills and other documents are sent to her for her approval. "She acts as though she is a part of the executive of government," Elrington said.

Dame Minita has been governor general since 1981, when the Central American nation gained full independence from Britain.

El Salvador

FMLN Denies Urban Commandos Still Exist

PA1311195993 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Nov 93

[From the "YSU Radio News" newscast]

[Text] The FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] has denied that the urban commandos that operated during the war still exist and stated that they disappeared with the dismantling of the former guerrilla movement's military structure.

FMLN leader Leonel Gonzalez said that through the peace agreements the FMLN had to totally detach itself from its armed branch to become a political party. Amid a political uproar caused by information released by the U.S. Government accusing Armando Calderon Sol and Vice President Francisco Merino of having ties with death squads, former Defense Minister General Rene Emilio Ponce, who was also linked, demanded that the urban commandos that still exist be taken into account. Ponce rejected the accusations and said they were biased and unfounded and reiterated his disposition to being investigated in order to ratify his innocence in this case. The FMLN leader added that he demands evidence regarding the existence of the urban commandos.

[Begin Gonzalez recording] In this sense we told the government or the Armed Forces that if they have any evidence showing that the urban commandos still exist, they should bring it here to Onusal [UN Observers for El Salvador]. We dismantled our military structure on 15 December 1992; we terminated our military structure; besides, at the beginning of this year we finished destroying all our weaponry. Now we are a political party, and all the military and paramilitary structures of the FMLN disappeared. [end recording]

Gonzalez also said that if the reports linking right wing politicians to human rights violations mention later members of the FMLN, they are willing to subject themselves to any investigation.

[Begin Gonzalez recording] We have said it before; if there is any information involving the FMLN, it must be investigated to find out whether that information is true. To date, we do not have, we have not read those documents, but if there were FMLN members mentioned, it would have to be investigated. [end recording]

Last week the U.S. Government declassified a number of reports regarding those responsible for different violent actions in the country, which, up to now, has only involved right wing politicians. The president of the Republic totally dismissed these reports, however, due to a lack of evidence.

In addition, Alexander Watson, assistant secretary of state for Inter-American affairs who visited our country,

reiterated that these documents are reports that reached the U.S. Government without any evidence.

FMLN 'Militant' Killed in La Libertad Department

PA1211184793 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1120 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] San Salvador, 12 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Police sources reported today that a Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] militant was murdered in La Libertad Department, in western El Salvador.

According to FMLN spokesmen, the victim has been identified as Odil Miranda and the crime took place yesterday at 2300 in Colon Municipality. The FMLN Press Office reported that Miranda was shot in the chest and hit on the head. The motive for the crime is unknown and the killers have not been identified, the office reported.

The victim was an active member of the National Association of Agricultural and Livestock Workers and the son of the watchman of the headquarters of the People's Liberation Forces, an FMLN organization.

Since 25 October, the FMLN has reported the assassination of seven of its militants, including two former commanders, as well as two assassination attempts in different parts of the country. Two of the crimes have taken place as Marrack Goulding, UN under secretary general for political matters, visits the country. Goulding has the task of promoting compliance with the peace agreements and of stopping political violence in the country.

FMLN Demands Thorough Inquiry

PA1311045793 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 13 Nov 93

[From the "Up to Date" newscast]

[Text] Another body of an FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] member has been identified by his relatives at the Santa Tecla police station. The victim was identified as Jose Adilma Miranda Calderon, 28, who, according to his relatives, was a member of the FPL [Farabundo Marti Peoples Liberation Forces]. According to his wife, Jose Adilma left his home last Friday and nothing more was heard from him. On Wednesday, they went to the Santa Tecla police station and they were told that a man's body had been found. The body was transferred to the forensic medical department in Santa Tecla where he was identified.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] I believe he was murdered, because he was shot in the head.

[Victim's wife] Who could it have been? I do not know why he was murdered.

[Unidentified reporter] Did he have enemies?

[Victim's wife] No he did not, I never knew him to have enemies.

[Unidentified speaker] Many threats have been received from certain people whose names cannot be mentioned. We cannot mention their names because we do not have evidence. Once we have hard evidence, we can say it was such and such a person. [end recording]

FMLN members and other relatives have demanded a thorough investigation of this murder to determine whether it was political or criminal in nature. The incident appears to be a common crime because the autopsy reveals no signs of torture. According to the female doctor who conducted the autopsy, the death was caused by a bullet wound.

[Begin unidentified doctor recording] It was 0300, early dawn, no relatives were present. The streets were deserted, only the police, the judge, and we were present. He was lying in the middle of a puddle. He had been robbed; all of his documents had been stolen; he did not have any money or anything else on him. He only had a shot in the right side of his head. [end recording]

According to the forensic doctor, some of the slight blows on the victim's face could have been produced when he fell, becasue he was found face down in El Progreso neighborhood, Libertad Municipality. Jose Adilma Miranda had three children, including a two-month-old baby girl.

PDC Candidate Quits Race, Fears 'Death Squads'

PA1211232093 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2234 GMT 12 Nov

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 12 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Ulises Gonzalez, a cattle rancher and businessman, who was scheduled to be named the vice presidential candidate for the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] today, resigned just a few hours before the official announcement of his candidacy for fear of violence and the "death squads."

Gerardo Lechevalier, a PDC deputy and party leader, said during a news conference that Gonzalez told the party directorate last night that he decided not to run because he "feared for his family's safety." Lechevalier added, "We can fully understand the position of Ulises Gonzalez and his family, who have become victims of the widespread state of fear now gripping our country."

The political leader refused to say whether Ulises Gonzalez had been threatened. Instead, he only added, "We must respect his family situation, which we feel is quite delicate."

According to the PDC, Gonzalez's family members "are the victims, as are 5 million Salvadorans, of the fear created by the overall state of violence and the 'death squads' that have caused so much suffering to our country." The politician added that despite Gonzalez's untimely resignation, the PDC will continue to search

for a running mate among local businessmen for presidential candidate Fidel Chavez Mena. [passage omitted]

More on Candidate Withdrawal

PA1311010293 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Ulises Gonzalez, Christian Democratic Party [PDC] vice presidential candidate, has withdrawn his candidacy just hours before it was scheduled to be officially announced. Ulises Gonzalez championed [words indisntict] movement against agrarian reform and was one of the founders of ARENA [National Republican Alliance Party]. According to PDC leader Gerardo Lechevalier, Gonzalez's resignation was prompted by personal security concerns. Here is what Gerardo Lechevalier said:

[Begin Lechevalier recording] It is precisely for his relatives [words indistinct] personal security. It is not because of health reasons, or because [words indistinct]. It is because his family is living in fear. They feel the same uncertainty that all of us Salvadorans are currently experiencing—a situation that was being heightened at this time in which his candidacy was to be announced. [end recording]

Many sectors were surprised that Gonzalez had agreed to become the PDC's vice presidential candidate. Nevertheless, Gerardo Lechevalier indicated that the businessman felt let down by the current government's neglect of the agriculture sector. Lechevalier declined to make anyone in particular responsible for the pressures exerted on Ulises Gonzalez.

[Begin Lechevalier recording] We are not going to accuse any specific party right now. We believe that Ulises Gonzalez's first commitment was to the agricultural sector rather than to a party of the past. It is because of this great responsibility that all of these pressures and threats have come about. These circumstances have forced him and his family to leave the political scene and to resign his vice presidential candidacy [words indistinct]. [end recording]

It was unofficially learned that death squads had threatened Gonzalez, calling on him to reject the PDC platform. His whole family was threatened, and, according to reports, his wife had to be hospitalized with a nervous condition. Ulises Gonzalez recently had been awarded the Antonio Rodriguez Medal by the National Private Sector Association. According to Lechevalier, his background and past actions made him a qualified candidate.

Candidate Urges Independent Probe of Death Squads

PA1411175293 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2034 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] San Salvador, 13 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Opposition Candidate Ruben Zamora asserted here today that the Salvadoran Government wants to protect itself from a UN-sponsored, independent investigation on the death squads. The candidate of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front-Democratic Convergence (FMLN-CD) coalition, talked to NOTIMEX about differences with the government on forming a commission to investigate the illegal armed groups operating in the country.

Zamora said: "The government wants a commission to protect itself, not to investigate the death squads. We, on the other hand, want an independent commission. This is the key point in the entire issue."

Diplomatic sources have indicated that UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding has not yet been able to help achieve an agreement between President Alfredo Cristiani's government and the FMLN on investigating the death squads. The Salvadoran Government contends the commission should be appointed by the president, but the FMLN opposes this. Meanwhile, the UN is proposing that the commission be formed by representatives from the government, the FMLN, the Human Rights Attorney General's Office, and the United Nations.

The FMLN-CD candidate warned that if Goulding leaves the country on Sunday without achieving an agreement on the issue, the peace process crisis will worsen. Zamora said: "If Mr. Goulding is unable to reach an agreement, this will be a bleak signal that goes against democracy and our society's advancement. It would be a very good sign for the death squads, however, by making them think they have the government's support."

Goulding arrived in El Salvador on 8 November, to help secure an agreement between government and FMLN representatives in an effort to clear the way to dismantling the death squads and to expedite compliance with the peace accords. Goulding returns to New York tomorrow, where he will present a report to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

Presidency Minister on Violence, Ready To Visit UN

PA1411201393

[Editorial Report] San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish at 1543 GMT on 14 November broadcasts a live, 15-minute telephone interview with Salvadoran Presidency Minister Oscar Santamaria, who is in San Salvador "preparing to depart for UN Headquarters in New York in about two hours."

An unidentified reporter begins the interview by asking Santamaria about the reasons behind his trip. Santamaria says the trip is related to the Salvadoran peace process and adds that he will be meeting with officials who are closely monitoring this process, including "the UN Security Council president and other council members, including countries that we call friends of the

Salvadoran peace process, as well as with the U.S. Government through its representative in New York, Mrs. Madeleine Albright."

The reporter points out that UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding, who is scheduled to end a visit to El Salvador later in the day, has voiced concern over the government's failure to comply with certain commitments under the UN-sponsored peace agreements, in particular, commitments related to the land transfer program.

Santamaria answers: "I want to be realistic about this. We have said that dealing with the peace agreements is a very complex task, especially in terms of the land issue. We have constantly been confronted with difficulties and obstacles. The government is not the only party responsible for this situation."

The minister continues by noting that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] has also failed to fully comply with certain commitments. As an example of the government's resolve, Santamaria points out that the operational framework of the land agreement was a unilateral initiative on the part of the government. Santamaria also says that constant changes made by the FMLN on the list of beneficiaries has created confusion in the land program. He adds that other factors, such as the availability of funding, have also inhibited the development of the program.

Concerning Marrack Goulding's claim that tensions appear to be increasing in El Salvador in the wake of the murders of several FMLN members, Santamaria says: "We must remember we have had nearly 18-19 months of what I would call an abnormal situation. I say abnormal because the Salvadoran peace process should stand as an example for the entire world. Everyone is amazed at the normalcy that has prevailed throughout this time, as if we had never had a conflict."

Santamaria continues by saying there appears to be an effort to derail the government's accomplishments and to create an atmosphere that will strain the peace process. He claims this effort is being conducted in favor of specific interests of some political groups within the country.

He goes on to reiterate the government's opposition to any form of political violence: "We reject violence. We condemn it regardless of its origin. We have never agreed with it. The government has been categorical in this regard. The president of the Republic has on countless occasions said we must condemn and punish violence, regardless of its source. He has promised that the law will be applied to all of those responsible for violent acts against people of any persuasion."

Minister Santamaria continues: "The election campaign is one factor affecting the stability and consolidation of this process. As we have said before, an election campaign can cause social distortions in any country in the world, even in those that have not experienced war. Therefore, this theory is even more applicable to El Salvador, because we are just leaving a war, a conflict. We are just starting to learn how to coexist."

As for the recent murders of FMLN members, Santamaria says: "I would like to think they are isolated incidents and not part of a systemmatic action against certain people. Otherwise, we would be creating the same conditions that gave birth to the armed conflict. I think no one stands to benefit from this. No citizen, association, or political group would like to see a return of what, thank God, has already been relegated to the pages of history."

Santamaria continues by calling on all sectors of society to reject violent acts that create confusion and uncertainty. The minister also urges all citizens to unite to defend the peace process and to assist the authorities investigating the recent slaying. He points out that foreign experts are already in the country helping local security forces solve these cases.

Santamaria adds that the recent slayings have cast a shadow over the political and social climate in El Salvador, but he adds: "We are most certain that they will not cause a setback or collapse in the process and return us to a phase which no one wants to relive, much less remember."

The minister calls for a serious, mature, and responsible reflection on the situation, and he urges citizens to pay no attention to external comments and rumors because they merely lead to additional confusion.

Lawyers Doubt U.S. Documents Constitute Espionage

PA1311043393 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Report by William Melendez from the "Up to Date" newscast]

[Text] Prominent Salvadoran lawyers doubt that the disclosure of intelligence reports prepared by the U.S. Government during the past decade constitutes an act of international espionage violating national sovereignty, as President Cristiani claimed yesterday.

Last Monday [8 November—as heard], President Alfredo Cristiani warned his government would investigate the disclosure of the secret documents to determine whether the United States violated international agreements or whether the disclosure could be regarded as an act of espionage. Concerning this, attorney Francisco Lima, a reknown expert in international law, dismissed the president's conjectures.

[Begin Lima recording] When I heard what President Cristiani said about the possibility of espionage, I had to laugh, because there is no international treaty on what he believes is espionage. In addition, there was no espionage here. The men who came here and issued reports

were here with the government's knowledge and were brought here by the government. [end recording]

Lima described as ridiculous the fact that Cristiani should try to play down the importance of these documents, which, in his opinion, will prompt U.S. congressmen to initiate investigations to determine whether officials lied in the reports to the government.

Attorney Luis Dominguez Parada also expressed his views on the subject.

[Begin Dominguez recording] In my opinion, the president's sharp remarks are somewhat outrageous and insulting to the United States. Why? Because they have... [pauses] we have been beggars. They financed the war and we are still begging them for money to help us with the peace process. This means we have a serious commitment with the United States of America. [end recording]

Dominguez Parada said Cristiani's statement was inappropriate and brash because there has been no espionage or violation of international treaties.

FMLN Leader Assails Reaction

PA1311031493 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2029 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 12 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Today, former Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] guerrillas criticized the Salvadoran Government's position of discounting the information contained in recently "declassified" U.S. documents on El Salvador's "death squads." The FMLN claimed the government's position dismisses the importance of truth.

Today, in a televised interview, former FMLN Commander Joaquin Villalobos said the information on the illegal groups released by the CIA is valid because it was the CIA that cooperated with the Salvadoran Government during the former counterinsurgency war. The FMLN leader said: "Who gave the money to the government to wage the war? Who provided the weapons? Who supported the Armed Forces? Who drew up this nation's military intelligence doctrine? Well, it was the United States." Villalobos went on to ask: "Is it possible that they did not know that all of this was going on?"

Villalobos said: "If the CIA says the vice president (Francisco Merino) wanted to murder the president, there must be some reason for this. I do not think they made this up." [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Villalobos expressed his disagreement with the Truth Commission's investigation report on the political crimes committed during the war, because, according to Villalobos, it failed to include the names of the sponsors of the "death squads." [passage omitted]

The FMLN leader said: "The Truth Commission's most serious flaw was that it failed to say what it should have said about those who participated in the 'death squads.'"

Villalobos added: "The Truth Commission did not pin the corresponding responsibility on the United States, specifically on the Ronald Reagan administration and on part of George Bush's." According to Villalobos, both U.S. Presidents had access to key information on the leaders and members of the illegal right-wing groups.

The FMLN leader also said he is willing to face Salvadoran businessman Orlando De Sola in court. On Thursday, De Sola filed a lawsuit against Villalobos for slander because Villalobos recently pointed him out as one of the main sponsors of the "death squads."

Meanwhile, General Rene Emilio Ponce, former defense minister, today accused the U.S. Government of being "irresponsible" for having published the intelligence information. Ponce also is mentioned as being linked to the "death squads."

In a news conference, Ponce said that Washington, by publishing information from its secret files on the Salvadoran war, had acted "irresponsibly because nothing is confirmed." Ponce added: "I am basing my statement on what Alexander Watson has said." [passage omitted]

Former Minister Decries Documents

PA1311044393 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Report by Alfredo Villarreal from the "Up to Date" newscast—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Former Defense Minister General Rene Emilio Ponce has accused the U.S. Government of acting irresponsibly by declassifying intelligence reports. The reports implicate Ponce as a director of the death squads. According to a report by THE NEW YORK TIMES, Ponce helped Major Roberto d'Aubuisson put the death squads together while working as the head of the Traffic Police in the early 1980's.

[Ponce] "I confirm that there has been espionage, and all these documents prove it."

Affirming that there has been international espionage directed at the current government, Gen. Rene Emilio Ponce called the statements made against him by two U.S. newspapers unfounded and irresponsible. The reports are based on documents the U.S. authorities recently declassified. They accuse Ponce of collaborating with the death squads during the last decade, under the late Maj. Roberto d'Aubuisson.

[Ponce] "These reports are gossip, as we say in Salvadoran jargon. They are rumors with no grounds whatsoever. The truth of the matter is that there is a network of informants and sources in El Salvador working for the U.S. Embassy. They get paid for doing it. In order to get paid, they have to collect some sort of information."

Meanwhile, the military leader also said that there were violent left-wing and right-wing groups the Armed Forces could not get rid of.

[Ponce] "Just as there were violent individuals on the extreme left and the extreme right seeking to resolve our problems by nonpeaceful methods, they could also be in any other sector of Salvadoran society. Therefore, we cannot say that the Armed Forces were free of this."

Gen. Rene Emilio Ponce, who is now retired, noted that once again declassified information from U.S. intelligence sources has come to create controversy within Salvadoran society.

FMLN Leader: Documents Support Truth

PA1411002393 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 11 Nov 93 p 1

[Text] On 11 November, Francisco Jovel, known during the war as Commander Roberto Roca, said that the documents declassified by the CIA and U.S. State and Defense Departments do not favor the Salvadoran left wing, they favor the truth. Jovel was interviewed on a channel 21 television program regarding the reactions of people involved in the latest reports such as prominent members of ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance], who were linked to the "death squads."

The FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] leader maintained that the reports certainly affect those people who are involved, which leads us to believe that the "squads" are neither ghosts nor a thing of the past. In Jovel's opinion, Vice President Merino's reaction was to be expected because he has always behaved that way. Instead of being humble and requesting that he be investigated as any person who has nothing to fear would do, he insults the United States and goes to the extreme of considering the disclosures a plot.

The FMLN leader maintains that the disclosures are not part of a plot and have nothing to do with the pre-electoral campaign inasmuch as the FMLN has always insisted that the investigations conducted by the United States be divulged, but not at election time.

According to Jovel, the United States' actions were prompted by the latest murders, which were obviously politically motivated and could be considered part of an electoral intimidation plan to create terror. Furthermore, Jovel said, the disclosures are aimed at ending the impunity that was sealed by the amnesty following the release of the United Nations Truth Commission report. Herein lies the importance of the documents that were declassified today after so many years and which are neither inventions nor slander but the result of investigations by experts and organizations like the CIA.

Jovel said that if these documents had been released earlier a negotiated solution to the war might have been anticipated, but the mentality of U.S. officials did not change until the final two years of the Bush administration.

To conclude, the FMLN leader said the most serious issue is that the documents in question might take a serious toll on former U.S. officials who committed perjury by lying about that which Americans defend so strongly; that is, sworn statements before Congress.

Goulding Reviews Electoral Process Preparations

PA1211202993 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Report by Mario Jovel for "Up to Date" newscast]

[Text] UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding visited Supreme Electoral Tribunal [TSE] facilities during his fourth day in the country to follow up on the peace process and verify the results of the electoral process in our country.

Goulding, who was accompanied by Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, met in private with the TSE magistrates for over an hour. They did not make any statements to the media after the meeting, but according to TSE President Luis Zaldivar, the issues they discussed indicated that the diplomats are satisfied with the work being carried out.

[Begin Zaldivar recording] They know the work being done by the TSE has met its goals, and they reasserted their support so we can continue our work. God willing, we will finish our job on 20 March 1994, and we will later notify all Salvadoran citizens of the results. [end recording]

Zaldivar said he told Goulding that 84.5 percent of the registered voters have received their voting cards. The percentage was possible because 145,000 citizens received their cards a few days ago. He said 55 percent were new voting cards and 45 percent were replacements or modifications. He added that international aid is still necessary.

[Begin Zaldivar recording] What we have said is that the work we will carry out in the near future to validate all the requests for inclusion in the electoral registry is a critical task that requires the participation of all TSE personnel and the continuation of this aid. [end recording]

The TSE president said 900 electoral observers have arrived in the country since the UN Observers for El Salvador office opened; adding that the United Nations is scheduled to send an additional 200 observers to cover the next elections.

Envoy Delays Departure To Set Up Probe Panel

PA1411202593 Paris AFP in Spanish 1809 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Nov (AFP)—Marrack Goulding, UN under secretary general for political affairs, will prolong his stay in San Salvador because of "difficulties"

in forming a commission to investigate and dismantle the feared death squads, an official spokesman reported today.

The UN spokesman told AFP that Goulding will remain in San Salvador for "as long as he considers necessary" to advance the negotiations, which were bogged down on 13 November because of differences between the government and the former guerrilla organization on the issue of prospective participants of the commission, which is to investigate the clandestine armed groups.

Goulding, who arrived in El Salvador on 5 November and was scheduled to have ended his visit on 14 November, is attempting to coordinate the establishment of an investigation commission. With this goal in mind, Goulding met separately with President Alfredo Cristiani and the leaders of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN).

The commission is to investigate the murders of former FMLN Commanders Francisco Velis and Heleno Castro; three other FMLN members; and a member of the Nationalist Republican Alliance; all of whom were killed in recent weeks. The commission will also have to launch in-depth investigations into the origins of the death squads that have tarnished the peace process, which began when the Salvadoran Government and guerrillas signed the peace accords in 1992.

Sources close to the negotiations explained on 13 November that the problem with establishing the commission lies in the fact that the government wants to head the investigations, although it would permit FMLN representatives to serve on the commission. Meanwhile, the FMLN wants the commission to be headed by Human Rights Ombudsman Carlos Fonseca and Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, the head of the UN Observers for El Salvador mission. The FMLN proposal was supported today by the Catholic Church when it underlined that the commission, which is to investigate the death squads, should have "everyone's trust."

Calderon Sol: Elections Pit ARENA Against the Left

PA1311020893 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0048 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 12 Nov (DPA)—On 12 November, Armando Calderon Sol, presidential candidate of the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, told DPA that the left wing will be his party's main opponent in the March 1994 elections. El Salvador will hold presidential, legislative, and municipal elections on 20 March. About 10 parties representing all ideologies, including the left wing represented by the Communisty Party of El Salvador, will participate.

In statements to DPA, the candidate of the right-wing official party said he thinks the left wing has increased its popularity, as reflected in the polls. Nevertheless, he believes it is a newcomer in the election process and, therefore, has no chance of winning. "I think the competition will be with the left wing, but we will win in the first round and there will be no runoff elections as predicted by leftist ideologues," Calderon Sol said.

He contends that the left wing has little chance of winning the elections because the memories of war are still fresh in the minds of the people, who have not yet forgotten what the guerrillas did. This is why the people will not elect them into the government. [passage omitted]

Jose Napoleon Duarte and his Christian Democratic Party [PDC] were in power until 1988, when this party was defeated by ARENA's candidate, President Alfredo Cristiani. The PDC was plagued by a crisis and internal struggles after Duarte succumbed to cancer. Today, that party has not even been able to complete its presidential ticket because no one wants to accept the vice presidencial slot. This is why Calderon Sol does not view the PDC as a contender. He thinks the main struggle will be with the left wing, but he warns against polarizing the election campaign, because this would prove detrimental to the process.

The candidate of the right-wing ARENA thinks several incidents have muddied the political process. In this regard, he demanded that other candidates make every effort to avoid a dirty campaign. According to Calderon Sol, the incidents that have muddied the campaign are the murders of former guerrilla commanders and other left-wing activists, incidents in which ARENA had no responsibility.

The left wing has pointed to the government and its party's links to illegal clandestine groups known as "death squads." In this regard, Calderon Sol again rejected references to him in a report that the U.S. Government declassified. This document links him to "death squad" activities in the early 1980's.

Guatemala

Attorney General Says Referendum Ruling Illegal

PA1311000593 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 12 Nov 93

["Statements on the Constitutionality Court ruling that temporarily suspended the 28 November referendum" by Attorney General Telesforo Guerra Cahn made during a joint news conference with Finance Minister Richard Aitkenhead and unidentified reporters in Guatemala City on 11 November; from the "Telepress" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Guerra] More than hurting the president of the Republic, the court's resolution closes the door on the people's aspirations. It blocks the people's legal right to make themselves heard by way of the vote.

Last night, I said the resolution was illegal, and I am going to prove this right now. The law specifically

establishes that any citizen can present charges of unconstitutionality, but it stipulates that the citizen's request must carry the signature of three lawyers. Hector Horacio Zachrisson Descamp's request is backed by the signature of two lawyers, not three. Zachrisson is a lawyer, this is true, but he is the party filing the petition, and, as the citizen presenting the request—here we refer to Article 169 of the Amparo Law—he must have the support of three other lawyers. The request is signed by only two lawyers. This is one point.

The other point is that Article 269 of the Constitution of the Republic, which has been violated by the Constitutionality Court, specifies those authorities against whom charges of unconstitutional behavior can be leveled; namely, the president of the Republic, legislative bodies, deputies, and the Supreme Court of Justice. It also establishes that the court must comprise seven magistrates. In this case, the charge was presented against an inherently administrative action not a legislative action. The referendum was ordered by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, which is not included in Article 269 of the Constitution. Moreover, the court was formed with seven magistrates in a totally illegal manner. [sentence as heard]

As you can see, there have been two violations: one of the Amparo Law's Article 169 on personal and constitutional petitions and one of Article 269 of the Constitution of the Republic. This proves, once again, the obvious political objective of the court's ruling to stop the people from expressing their will and from casting their votes to combat corruption. Therefore, gentlemen, the violations are clear, and the court's position is extremely shameful because it attempts to limit the aspirations of the Guatemalan people.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] resolution is politically motivated?

[Guerra] I do not think so. I am certain, however, that it is politically motivated, because the court is extremely politicized. It is formed by... [pauses] Well, you all know how its members were elected. They were elected by members of the political parties who are the ones being questioned, both in Congress and the Supreme Court of Justice. Therefore, political motivation obviously exists. The people, however, have to know that their rights are being suppressed in a totally illegal and unconstitutional manner.

[Reporter] In your opinion, how can the crisis be resolved?

[Guerra] In my personal opinion... [pauses] Right now, as attorney general, I am presenting an appeal for the annulment of the court's decision for the reasons I have just explained. This action is intended to invalidate this resolution to permit the referendum to be held as planned.

Now, apart from my position as attorney general, I also believe that the court is attempting to push the people and the country into illegal actions, because it does not want to permit the people to express their will in accordance with the law, as they would in the referendum. The court has practically banned the referendum, and it wants to stop the people from having access to this mandated legal mechanism.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Guerra] Because of the nature of the decision, we cannot do this because there is no higher institution. We are presenting an annulment, an amendment of the procedures, in order that the court ruling, which violates the Constitution, can be revoked.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Guerra] We are doing this right now.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Guerra] The annulment appeal led to its revocation. In other words, to revoke means, precisely, to cancel the resolution that suspends the referendum.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] criminal responsibilities of Constitutionality Court magistrates?

[Guerra] Yes, their responsibilities for patently violating the Constitution could be established. They violated Article 269 of the Constitution. They established the court with seven magistrates and accepted an unconstitutionality charge against an administrative action that is not susceptible to being challenged. The Supreme Electoral Tribunal is a passive organization, and, therefore, its actions cannot be challenged.

[Reporter] Could they face a preliminary hearing?

[Guerra] They are open to facing a preliminary hearing and all other legal procedures related to the violation of the Constitution of the Republic.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Guerra] Well, we could present this kind of action, but, as you and the people know, we would again crash against the wall of impunity because of the controls used within the Supreme Court of Justice and the Congress of the Republic.

TSE Continues Preparing for Referendum

PA1311034593 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 12 Nov 93 p 8

[Text] Magistrate Mario Roberto Guerra Roldan has reported that the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) will continue to prepare for the 28 November referendum, despite the Constitutionality Court's decision yesterday afternoon to temporarily suspend the event.

So far, 330 municipal and 22 departmental electoral boards have been sworn in, in addition to the swearing-in of vote collection boards. The TSE has distributed 5,882 voting tables nationwide.

Guerra Roldan announced that foreign observers will be coming to Guatemala to monitor the voting, and he highlighted that their governments, as well as the Inter-American Human Rights Institute, will be required to cover the expenses for their envoys.

Guerra Roldan said some 800,000 quetzales will be spent on the advertising campaign. Advertising costs were originally set at 2 million quetzales, which was later reduced to the current figure. He said the publicity campaign will be aimed at encouraging voters to go to the polls and vote in accordance with the Electoral and Political Party Law.

Political Forum Warns Against Threats to Democracy

PA1311024993 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0109 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 12 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Several Guatemalan political groups today issued a warning to the population to prevent military, business, and political leaders from overturning the fledgling democratic structures in this Central American nation.

A forum of political groups and parties not represented in Congress issued a document today urging the nation to join together to face the nation's current political crisis, which is threatening to explode. The forum proposed using the current opportunity, which followed Jorge Serrano's failed coup d'etat in May, to correct the democratic process.

The forum urged all Guatemalans to reject the plans of the Army, business leadership, and some political groups it did not identify. It said these groups "are once again seeking to distort the path needed to improve the institutions." It also urged the people to not allow the purge of the state branches to be used as a "smokescreen to hide the need to ameliorate and resolve the true problems" affecting Guatemalan society.

The forum, comprising the Social Christian Party, the United Democratic Revolutionary Front, the Social Christian Party People's Alliance 5, and the Movement for the Improvement of the Democratic Socialist Party and Christian Democracy, proposed reforming the Electoral Law by encouraging decentralization and making political participation more democratic.

Political Violence, Crime Increase Nationwide

PA1411212893 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2034 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 14 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Political violence and common crime in Guatemala increased over the weekend following several bomb attacks and extrajudicial executions.

In Fray Bartolome de las Casas in northern Alta Verapaz Department, unidentified persons dynamited two electricity generators. Meanwhile, another group of unidentified persons planted a bomb at the SIGLO VEINTIUNO stand at the Interfer Trade Fair. The National Police bomb squad defused the explosive. SIGLO VEINTIUNO has been the target of several bomb attacks throughout the year.

Two youths were gunned down just outside Guatemala City. One of them was killed and the other seriously wounded. Police sources said this seems to be "one more episode" in the executions carried out on a daily basis throughout the country.

Likewise, four other persons were found dead on Saturday in various towns in Quetzaltenango Department west of Guatemala City. Police reports add that in El Reposo, two unidentified youths were found shot to death with signs of having been tortured. The third victim found in Quetzaltenango was a man approximately 30 years of age who was strangled. Police found another man alive, but he later died as a result of the beating he received from his killers.

It was learned today that Romeo Audi Herrera, a 45-year-old exporter of agricultural products, was kidnapped one month ago, thus increasing the number of kidnapping victims in the country.

Bomb Damages Banks, Homes

PA1211192493 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1843 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 12 Nov (NOTIMEX)—A medium intensity bomb exploded today in Mazatenango in eastern Suchitepequez Department, causing no casualties but damaging several bank offices and surrounding homes, the National Police reported. Early reports add that four people riding on two motorcycles hurled the bomb at the Industrial Bank offices, where it exploded seconds later.

The explosion alarmed Mazatenango residents and forced the police and soldiers to patrol the streets and roads leading to the city, the second most important in Guatemala. Troops from the Cuyotenango Military Base were deployed to the scene, where they searched for the responsible parties to no avail.

In addition, National Police personnel today defused a bomb allegedly planted by members of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, [URNG] on a bridge in Guatemala City.

The United Nations has called for a preliminary meeting between the Guatemalan Government and the guerrillas to initiate talks focused on ending the 33-year-old armed conflict in Guatemala. The parties are willing to participate in the meeting, but no date has been set.

De Leon Calls Occupation of OAS Office 'Illegal'

PA1111160493 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1859 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 9 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan President Ramiro de Leon Carpio today said the occupation of the Guatemala City OAS office for 24 consecutive days by two Indian organizations, which demand the disbandment of the Civilian Self-Defense Patrols [PAC], is "illegal." The government will do nothing under such illegal pressure," he said. De Leon ruled out the inclusion of the PAC issue in the plebiscite to be held 28 November on purging the Legislative and Judicial Branches.

Approximately 17 members of the National Commission of Guatemalan Widows [Conavigua] and the Peasant Unity Committee [CUC] have occupied the OAS office for 24 consecutive days, demanding the dissolution of PACs, which have been charged with several crimes.

De Leon pointed out that the occupation of the office is "illegal" and that the government has not attempted to dislodge the Indians because they are at the office of an international organization, which must approve the dislodging operation. The president also said through Government Minister Arnoldo Ortiz that the government will receive the Conavigua and CUC petitions. These organizations are made up of thousands of relatives of victims of the armed conflict in the country. Speaking to the media at the government building, De Leon said he is open to dialogue, that he will not accept any illegal pressure, and that a different type of consultation could be held on the PAC issue in the future.

PACs, which were created in 1982 by the de facto government of Efrain Rios Montt, are made up of approximately 800,000 peasants throughout the country. Guatemalan human rights organizations, which have accused PACs of being the leading personal rights violators, have demanded their disbandment. This disbandment is also demanded by the guerrillas as part of the peace dialogue with the government.

Executive Branch Passes Reform Counterproposal

PA1111152293 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 9 Nov 93 p 8

[Report by Carmen Aida Ibarra]

[Text] In the framework of a meeting held yesterday afternoon, in which there was no direct contact between the conflicting government branches, the Bishops Conference representatives presented the government counterproposal on constitutional reforms to the deputies in the National Congress.

According to the initial assessment of several deputies, who said they were not entirely satisfied with it, the Executive Branch counterproposal reduces the Congressional bill to 21 reforms, strengthens the presidential position, attempts to reduce to 77 the number of deputies, and eliminates the norms that regulate the government's political, administrative, and financial decentralization, which is considered fundamental for the country's development.

Nevertheless, the deputies agreed to suspend the session scheduled to approve the constitutional reforms bill proposed by Congress, which had been called for today, to make a more detailed study of the president's counterproposal.

Congress President Jose Fernando Lobo Dubon reported that the plenary would not be held in order to first see the results of a meeting scheduled for this afternoon. The meeting could yield agreements. At a meeting held yesterday, they only met to receive the government counterproposal.

Direct Discussion Demanded

Regarding the lack of direct dialogue between the Executive and Legislative Branches, the deputies pointed out that the government delegates are evading a direct and clear discussion with Congress. They demanded that President Ramiro de Leon Carpio's representatives be present at the meeting scheduled for this afternoon.

The counterproposal was not given directly to the Legislative Branch as was previously thought. Government Minister Arnoldo Ortiz Moscoso, Presidency Secretary General Hector Luna, and adviser Antonio Arenales Forno, who represented the Executive Branch, did not contact the deputies directly and gave the technical document to Bishops Gerardo Flores, Fernando Gamalero, and Juan Gerardi. After presenting the document, the government representatives left the Bishops Conference headquarters.

Later, the bishops met with approximately 20 deputies, representatives of the DC [Guatemalan Christian Democracy], FRG [Guatemalan Republican Front], UCN [Union of the National Center], MAS [Solidarity Action Movement], PSD [Democratic Socialist Party], Change [not further expanded], Unity [not further expanded], FAN [National Advancement Front], and independent blocs to give them the counterproposal on the constitutional reforms.

The meeting with the deputies was attended by lawyers Luis Beltranena Valladares, Mario Fuentes Destarac, Fernando Quezada Toruno, and Mynor Pinto Acevedo, who, at the request of the government and in a voluntary manner, form an independent technical-juridical commission. This team studied the constitutional reforms presented by Congress and, after a week of long meetings, prepared a counterproposal for the president's consideration, which he accepted.

Study Initiated

When the meeting with the bishops ended, the FRG, UCN, MAS, PSD, FAN, and Change deputies met in the

office of Congressman Juan Francisco Reyes Lopez to study the government's counterproposal. The deputies who attended the meeting commented that the Executive Branch had taken too long to study the bill presented by Congress and had now presented a counterproposal of 21 reforms, which substantially reduces the ones prepared by the Legislative Branch. Notwithstanding, they consider the Executive Branch proposal to be somewhat similar to the Legislative Branch proposal, but its content is still restrictive.

In any case, it is expected that negotiations on the constitutional reforms will formally start this afternoon, and it is also expected that President Ramiro de Leon Carpio's representatives will participate in the meetings.

Report Details Executive-Legislative Reform Talks

PA1411132693 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 11 Nov 93 p 4

[Report by Carmen Aida Ibarra]

[Text] Yesterday, the Executive and Legislative Branches agreed on 17 of the 21 reforms proposed by the executive branch during the second round of talks. Nevertheless, the talks failed to overcome differences on several pending issues, including the number of deputies who will comprise the Legislative Assembly.

According to Deputy Juan Francisco Alfaro Mijanos, agreements were reached on only 17 the executive branch proposals, with differences remaining on proposed reforms dealing with Articles 157, 160, 215, and 237, which deal with the number of deputies in Congress, budget management, and the judiciary branch president's length of term. He added that these Executive Branch proposals were left pending and will be reworked in a meeting scheduled for this afternoon, when agreements are expected to be reached following a review of proposals forwarded by Congress.

The executive branch has proposed reducing the number of deputies to 70 (Article 157), eliminating those provisions that allow deputies to occupy posts in other branches of state (Article 160), imposing minimum limitations on budget management (Article 237), and setting the judiciary branch president's term at five years (Article 215). Congress agrees with reducing the number of deputies, but not to a point that could severely affect or distort the system of representation and restrict the citizens' participation, especially considering that the goal of the reforms is to broaden opportunities for civic committees, ethnic groups, and other groups not linked to political parties.

The deputies feel that if the number of deputies is drastically reduced there will be a small and very elite Congress that will be controlled by the political parties, and this could, by restricting the opportunities to elect representatives, exclude representatives from ethnic, civic, and popular groups and other nonpartisan sectors. They feel the ideal situation would be one deputy for every 125,000 people, which would create a Congress of some 90 legislators.

During the meeting held yesterday from 1430 to 1930 at the Bishops Conference, there were moments of impasse that were quickly overcome because both sides decided to allow points of dispute to remain pending in an effort to make the dialogue more fluid. One key dispute came in the area of budget reforms. The deputies have proposed provisions that will guarantee very clear allocations of budget funds, banning in the Constitution multimillion-quetzal transfers through which resources are diverted from investment to cover operating expenses or foreign debt payments. The executive branch does not agree with this and it has proposed other reforms that, although they do not restrict transfers, they do not guarantee the allocation of funds, nor do they "tie" the hands of the government, while they cover other aspects that also seek to make budget management very open. [sentence as published]

Likewise, the negotiators failed to reach agreement on the judiciary branch president's term. The executive proposed the retention of the current system under which one of the Supreme Court of Justice magistrates serves in the post for five years. Congress, however, insisted that the judiciary branch presidency be rotated every year to give each of the magistrates an opportunity to occupy the high post, as is the case with the Constitutionality Court. Both sides agreed, however, to modify the procedure for electing the magistrates, because Congress accepted the Executive Branch proposal that the candidates be nominated by a Nomination Commission through a system similar to the one used for electing Supreme Electoral Tribunal magistrates.

Despite the points left pending, the executive and legislative branches reached several agreements, including that pretrial proceedings for deputies be handled by the Supreme Court of Justice and that the following three councils not be created: a Council of the Attorney General's Office; a Council of the Comptroller of Accounts; and, within the judiciary branch, a General Council of the Judicature. The Executive Branch's opinion prevailed on the issue of these councils, because, as Presidency Secretary General Hector Luna explained, the councils do not make any sense because they would tend to politicize the institutions and their officials instead of strengthening them. He explained that these councils would severely limit in power and practically tie the hands of the Attorney General and the Comptroller General.

Bishops Gerardo Flores, Fernando Gamalero, and Juan Gerardi are pleased with the progress made in the second round of the talks, and they hope a final agreement will ultimately be reached. According to the president of the Bishops Conference, the agreement includes nearly all of the proposals by the Executive Branch, and, although there are some differences concerning the number of deputies that will comprise the legislature, there is a

consensus that the number should be reduced. Monsignor Flores said that aside from resolving these differences, today's most interesting topic could be related to the transitory articles that will define the political solution to the crisis. According to Hector Luna, this point wi'l define the future of the current members of the Legislative and Judiciary Branches. He also confirmed that the Executive Branch is planning to advance the date of the parliamentary elections for no other reason than to allow the people to elect new deputies as soon as possible.

URNG Extends Invitation To Find Solutions to Crisis

PA1111002193 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 8 Nov 93 p 17

[Paid ad by the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, URNG, General Command: "The Institutional Conflict: An Expression of the Historic Crisis"]

[Text] In view of the country's dangerous and serious situation as the result of the institutional crisis created by antagonism among the various forces, the URNG General Command hereby addresses itself to the people, all of the Guatemalan social sectors, and the international community to present its view of the situation and extend an invitation to seek and find truly effective solutions.

Reality

The present crisis is but the continuation of the shameful coup perpetrated by Serrano and the Army High Command on 25 May. This is not, however, the immediate cause of the crisis, nor did it originate on this date. The true cause is the accumulation of political, economic, social, and military factors. Ungovernability has been evident since early in the year. It is the result and the consequence of the failure of an antidemocratic and unpopular model imposed by military force on Guatemalan society during the past 30 years.

The solution that some people attempted to give the crisis by appointing Ramiro de Leon Carpio as president has proven to be fallacious and inconsistent. A great historic opportunity for a democratic alternative and a way to lead the country down the path of development has been wasted speedily. Instead of stimulating transformations, the government has manipulated opportunities. Instead of progress there has been backwardness; this is an unquestionable reality.

Repressive agencies and organizations continue to operate with impunity. State repression and terrorism have increased alarmingly in the past weeks thus confirming a serious human rights violation situation. Reiterated recalcitrant and aggressive positions have been evident in all of the government's political and publicity moves and are intended to downplay the negotiation process thus negating an adequate treatment and solution of political and social problems.

The present disharmony between the three state branches is foreign to the people's interests, no matter how many attempts are made at covering this conflict with society's demands. In the end, the people will be victimized by the disagreement. Genuine causes, such as purge or constitutional amendments, are no longer justified as the result of the form and meaning the quarreling sides have assigned them. Distorting these causes for their own gain turn them into demagogic maneuvers.

Perspectives

We are again at a crossroads. We face three alternatives: coup, compromise, democratic solution. There is a conflict between the various government branches, and this conflict is always centered on the Army and the possibility of the use of force, regardless of its nature. There are very powerful, albeit minority, groups in the Army and the private enterprise that attempt to impose a military solution to our problems, to silence protests, and to repress dissatisfaction.

We must keep an eye open on the probability of top level compromises in the various government branches and the possibility of these branches ignoring the people's will, representativeness, and interests, all of which could lead to a pretense of a solution of the institutional crisis but prevent a true solution of the general crisis. It is also possible to seek a truly democratic solution, which, based on an opening and the recognition of the people's sovereignty through a broad process of society's participation, could establish a National Salvation Government to construct a just and democratic peace.

Appeal

To deal with this reality, the URNG hereby calls all Guatemalan sectors to mobilize actively. Similarly, the URNG requests the international community's attention and solidarity. We must reject coups and compromises. We must pave the way for democratic solutions. We are in an emergency situation. The country can be saved from a debacle only by joining our forces and striving for shared objectives.

[Issued] URNG General Command.

[Signed] Commander Rolando Moran; Commander Pablo Monsant; Commander Gaspar Ilom; Carlos Gonzalez, secretary general of the Guatemalan Labor Party.

URNG Blames Government for Suspension of Talks

PA1211215693 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 11 Nov 93 p 4

[Text] The URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] General Command last night blamed the government, Army High Command, and Peace Commission representatives for the interruption of the negotiations process, as well as for any possible consequences of the interruption, according to a communique sent to this

editorial room. The communique also says the attempt to impose a military and repressive solution will only worsen the conflict without no chance whatsoever of resolving or ending it.

The URNG says the government must realize its so-called peace plan was rejected by the majority of Guatemalan society, adding that the plan also disappointed the international community's expectations because it precludes a resumption of negotiations. In turn, the government must make amends and stop its campaign of divisionist maneuvers.

The communique adds: The government's insistent and recalcitrant position is becoming increasingly evident day by day. The latest statements and actions to strengthen its plan clearly confirm this.

The URNG emphasizes: The government, which has showed its lack of respect for and disowned the agreements signed in Oslo and Mexico to support the negotiations carried out through the mediation of Hector Rosada, coordinator of the respective commission, has engaged in a series of maneuvers intended to deceive and confuse the national and international communities, while trying to impose a treacherous and inflexible plan.

The communique also says: The government will be fully responsible if it attempts to exclude mediator Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruno from the negotiations process in a unilateral and arbitrary way. His participation guarantees a format which will permit calm negotiations within a political, economic, and social framework.

The communique denies that the URNG has failed to take a position on the alleged peace plan proposed by the government. The General Command has already issued a statement on the matter, and it explained the reasons and arguments for its rejection. The request that the URNG's official reply be sent through the UN secretary general is inconsistent with previous agreements, according to the communique.

URNG Response Awaited

PA1411230193 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 12 Nov 93 p 8

[Text] President Ramiro De Leon Carpio has said that the Guatemalan Government is expecting, through the United Nations, an answer from the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) regarding the resumption of peace talks within the framework of the new plan. According to the president, he was advised yesterday that the rebels had presented their response to the United Nations. De Leon Carpio said he hopes the response will be a positive one because it is very important that the two sides undertake honest peace talks to end the more than 30 years of armed conflict.

International newscasts reported last night that UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali had told U.S. media that he is only making preparations for a call to talks. He did not specify, however, if it was for the URNG and the Guatemalan Government.

De Leon Carpio said the United Nations is the body responsible for calling the parties in conflict to an honest dialogue, and that is why the Peace Commission is waiting for the official summons.

The president regretted the decision made by the Episcopal Conference and Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruno to withdraw from the talks. De Leon Carpio, however, said that he respects their decision and that at some point he will meet with the members of the Episcopal Conference to discuss the plan.

The Civilian Self-Defense Patrols [PAC] To Be Dissolved After Conflict Ends Regarding the dissolution of the PAC, the president said that it will only be possible once the armed conflict ends. Meanwhile, members of people's organizations remain at OAS headquarters demanding the dissolution of those armed groups. De Leon Carpio said he will abide by the recommendations made by Christian Tomuschat, former human rights observer for Guatemala, but the Presidential Commission for the Coordination of Human Rights Affairs (Copredeh) must first study each of the proposals.

Negotiations Lose Credibility

Yesterday, Manuel Conde Orellana said the credibility lent to the negotiation process between the government and the guerrillas by the presence of the Episcopal Conference and that of Msgr. Rodolofo Quezada Toruno, president of the National Reconciliation Commission, has been affected by their withdrawal. Conde Orellana added that the fact that the Episcopal Conference had decided not to participate directly in the peace process is a serious matter because they gave the process certainty, security, and credibility, all of which are indispensable to the talks. Therefore, we must continue to count on them.

The Commission Must Seek a Mechanism

Former President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo said yesterday that the search for appropriate mechanisms to create adequate conditions to once again "seat" the guerrillas and the government around the negotiating table must be a priority for members of the Peace Commission. This is indispensable to attaining peace in Guatemala; a peace that everyone wants and needs to achieve the country's stability as well as to save the homeland from drowning in a crisis that could have disastrous results, Cerezo Arevalo added.

URNG Communique on Suspension

PA15i1030693 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 12 Nov 93 p 67

[Paid advertisement by the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, URNG, General Command on 10 Nov; place not given]

[Text]

The Government's Maneuvers Prevent the Achievement of Peace [subhead]

Urgent Declaration of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, URNG, General Command

A series of events directly related to the negotiation process aimed at seeking a political solution to the military conflict in Guatemala have occurred since Saturday, 6 November. Given the importance and seriousness of those events and given that they represent the culmination of an overall government policy, the URNG General Command

Considers:

The Government of the Republic—with disrespect and disregard for the agreements signed in Oslo and Mexico that support the negotiations—has carried out, through Hector Rosada, coordinator of the respective commission, a series of maneuvers intended to deceive and confuse the national and international communities while trying to impose a treacherous and unfeasible plan.

The Government of the Republic will be fully responsible if it attempts to exclude mediator Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruno from the negotiations process in an unilateral and arbitrary way. His participation guarantees a format that will permit calm negotiations within a political, economic, and social framework.

It is not true the URNG has failed to take a position on the alleged peace plan proposed by the government. The General Command issued a statement on the matter in due time in which it explicitly explained the reasons and arguments for its rejection. The request that the URNG's official reply be sent through the UN secretary general is inconsistent with previous agreements.

The reference to dates and places of a possible meeting sponsored by the UN secretary general, as stated by Mr. Rosada, is another one of the government's publicity stunts. On a separate basis and for very different goals, both parties have requested that a meeting be summoned. Hence, the meeting's contents, agenda, and participants are the issue under consideration.

Given all the above, the URNG General Command

Declares:

The persistence of recalcitrant positions in the government's negotiation guidelines is more evident every day. Its latest statements and actions to confirm its plans clearly prove this.

The Government of the Republic must realize its so-called peace plan has been rejected by the majority of Guatemalan society. It has disappointed the international community's expectations and it precludes a resumption of negotiations. Therefore, it is obligated to make amends and stop its campaign of diversionist maneuvers.

The government, Army High Command, and Peace Commission representatives are responsible for the interruption of the negotiation process, as well as for any possible consequences of the interruption. Any attempt to impose a military and repressive solution will only worsen the conflict with no chance whatsoever or solving or ending it.

URNG General Command.

10 November 1993.

Troops Prepare Offensive Against Rebels in Peten

PA1211180493 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 11 Nov 93 p 10

[Article by Mario Reyes Barrios]

[Text] Troops of the 23d Military zone in Santa Elena, Peten Department, are preparing an offensive and analyzing strategies to counteract the Rebel Armed Forces' sabotage of the nation's economy by spilling thousands of gallons of petroleum in the Libertad sector in Peten.

Colonel Byron Noe Estrada Mendez, third commander of the aforementioned military zone, stated that since the rebels began their activities, Army troops have attempted to control the situation. He noted, however, that there are limitations: for example, a lack of air support.

Estrada Mendez indicated that troops are forced to travel by land due to bad weather and occasional mechanical failures of the aircraft. Thus the conditions of the roads they must transit prevent them from arriving on time at places where the fuel trucks are intercepted.

Fuel truck drivers said there were two spills between the 107-km marker and Lagunitas hamlet, La Libertad, Peten Department, last week resulting in the loss of 32,000 gallons of fuel. They remarked that the Basic Resources company in charge of the exploitation of the Xan petroleum wells located at the 25-km marker on the other side of the San Pedro River, La Libertad, is insured, therefore it will not suffer any major losses. The drivers, however, are not paid for lost loads and must pay their own per diem.

The drivers said they and their families are the most adversely affected by this type of action. To make another trip they must get on the delivery line and wait from three to five days before they can begin another trip to the CARIBE deposits, where the oil pipeline is located. The fuel is sent through this pipeline to Santo Tomas de Castilla for export.

Approximately 20 to 30 men dressed in olive green and black intercepted the eight fuel trucks. The drivers were

forced to spill 32,000 gallons of fuel on the side of the road, according to witnesses, who were then forced to attend a meeting.

Correction To De Leon on Bishop's Appeal

PA1011214893

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "De Leon on Bishop's Appeal, 'Unchanged' Referendum Date," published in the 10 November LATIN AMERICA Daily Report, page 16: Column one, make sourceline read: ...Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0345 GMT 9 Nov 93.... (correcting sourceline)

Honduras

Callejas Denies Promoting Reforms

PA1311224493 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Report by Francisco Valeriano Giron on interview with President Rafael Leonardo Callejas on 9 November; place not given; from "The Morning Paper Newscast"]

[Text] The subject of constitutional reforms to the so-called unalterable articles [articulos petreos] that would establish some political rights is once again a matter of public discussion. Today we asked President Rafael Leonardo Callejas his opinion.

[Begin recording] [Callejas] I am again surprised by the subjective way in which the subject of constitutional reforms is being reported in the media and also by what some people have been saying. Now is not the best time for this. In my opinion, this subject requires a broad national analysis. I publicly reiterate that I am neither promoting nor trying to induce Congress or my fellow party members to adopt a position of that nature. We are going to have elections, and there will be a new president whose term will begin on 27 January. It will be up to the next Congress to decide if these matters will be discussed. I think these actions are intended to create uncertainty within the National Party of Honduras, PNH, which can be detrimental for the party.

[Valeriano] Why do you think these situations—weather balloons, of a sort—periodically come up? Could it be to measure the people's feelings?

[Callejas] More than anything else, I think this is being done to create confusion among members and supporters of the PNH. By assuming that I am not supporting the PNH presidential candidate and that I am promoting constitutional reforms in Congress, some members may lose enthusiasm or may be in doubt. Now, when the characteristics of the electoral process are very competitive, any factor that could weaken a party seeking power would definitely strengthen the other party. This is mere speculation. I am committed to the PNH in seeking the presidency through candidate Jose Osvaldo Ramos Soto. I respect the Liberal Party (PL) members, I think highly of them, and therefore I publicly protested reports published in Tegucigalpa in which statements were attributed to me that I never made. My opinion is that all this is just speculation. There is nothing going on, and I am not interested. Therefore, the Honduran people, especially the PNH members, should pay no mind to those expressions, which only seek to create confusion. [end recording]

According to President Callejas, a theoretical debate can be held on the constitutional reforms, but the country is not ready for that yet.

[Begin recording] [Callejas] I do not think conditions in the country are favorable for constitutional reforms. Obviously, in terms of dialogue and theoretical debate, we can discuss these and many other subjects. Based on our political reality, however, it is not advisable now or in the near future.

[Valeriano] Some political observers contend that society changes constantly, and therefore there should be no unalterable articles. What do you think about that?

[Callejas] As I said before, this subject may be discussed in the next legislative period. I prefer not to discuss the matter at this time. [end recording]

President Callejas said his agenda does not include the possibility of running for president again.

[Begin recording] [Callejas] I repeat, this is subjective. Reforms cannot be made to benefit one person. First of all, if those allegations were true, it would have to be determined that I want to be president again. I have never been asked that question and I have never answered it, either. I am very satisfied with my work. I am ending my presidential term in peace, with economic growth. People have shown their appreciation to me on many occasions, and I have seen that they are happy with my government. One cannot risk the prestige of a satisfactory government. As a Venezuelan top political leader once said: In politics, second rounds are not always good. Throughout the history of Latin America, we have seen that leaders who have been reelected when circumstances allow have not been successful during their second term because the people's expectations are too high. Why would I risk my future when my government's image is positive?

[Valeriano] Would you consider running for president in the future?

[Callejas] First of all, that is not possible according to the Constitution. If it were possible—and please do not speculate on this—I am not sure I would make that decision. Right now I am not even thinking about returning to the presidency. I am very happy with my work and satisfied with my government. We have made great progress in changing the attitude of the Honduran people. In my opinion, the greatest satisfaction my

government has had in the political field was the presidential debate, when the four presidential candidates approved my economic policy. That has been my government's greatest achievement; that is, convincing the leaders and future presidents of Honduras that the path leading to national progress in the political field is through democracy and in the economic field through market economy. It is a milestone in national life. Therefore, the Honduran people should go to the polls to elect a new president.

In the future—I do not know if this will happen or not—if constitutional amendments are approved, I might make a decision of that nature. At this time, however, I am not interested in being reelected president of Honduras, but in completing my presidential term satisfactorily and successfully. [end recording]

President Callejas said people are wise and know who they should elect. He added that he disagrees with those who say that politicians will sacrifice for the people.

[Begin Callejas recording] People never ask for anything, we are the ones who need the people's support. We should have this clear. No one is above the people. The people are more intelligent than all the presidential hopefuls, candidates, and presidents. People always know who they should elect president. I will tell you this: The next president will have to work tirelessly. He will have to tour the country, implement fiscal measures, and be very austere. In addition, he will have to have very clear policies, support the struggle for human rights, and adopt measures to protect the environment. People will demand those things. These days, with the way news is transmitted and the broad presence of the media, no president can remain isolated from the people. Therefore, in the national debate, if a government is not on the right path, the people will bitterly criticize him. People want a president who is capable of making decisions and making the country more competitive. [end recording]

TNE Announces 2.734 Million Registered To Vote

PA1211145593 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2007 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 9 Nov (NOTIMEX)—The National Electoral Tribunal (TNE) announced today that 2.734 million Hondurans are registered in the respective census to vote in the coming 28 November general elections.

The census was held by Honduran authorities, with the support of an OAS technical group, which will also send an undetermined number of observers to the elections.

Hondurans will go to the polls on Sunday, 28 November, in their fourth electoral process to elect presidents and deputies. This, however, will be the fifth consecutive electoral process, because in 1980 elections were called for a constituent assembly, which later called for general elections after 17 years of military rule. [passage omitted]

Honduras has a little over 5 million inhabitants and is located geographically in the central part of the Central American region. It shares borders with Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua.

In Sunday's 28 November elections, Hondurans will elect the president, 282 mayors, and 128 Congress deputies.

Liberal Presidential Candidate Leads Polls

PA1411033793 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1749 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 10 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Liberal Carlos Roberto Reina leads the polls in the race for the Honduran presidency that will culminate on 28 November, but only by a very slim margin over Conservative Oswaldo Ramos Soto. Reina, 68 years old, leads a majority of the polls carried out by specialized agencies and media among voters with an average margin of 5 percent.

One exception is the poll carried out between 21 and 23 October by the Sociology Department of the state university, which gave Reina 38.5 percent and Ramos Soto 28.4 percent in Tegucigalpa. The 10-percent difference is one of the highest in this electoral process, which will apparently be one of the closest races since Honduras returned to constitutional order in 1980.

In the so-called "war of the polls," the ruling National Party of Honduras [PNH], whose candidate is 48-year-old Ramos Soto, also claims to have polls showing them as favorites, including the one conducted by a local firm that has the CID-GALLUP franchise.

The general tendency 17 days prior to the elections shows Reina as the favorite in the great urban centers, although the race is closer in the rural areas. "To win the cities is a guaranteed victory on a nationwide scale," says Ramon Villeda Bermudez, one of the main liberal leaders.

One firm that puts Reina in the lead is the Costa Rican firm Delfos, Borges, and Associates, the same one that predicted Violeta de Chamorro's electoral victory in the 1990 Nicaraguan elections. In response, the nationalists argue that "the liberals buy the polls and their results."

As election day draws nearer, the electoral atmosphere get hotter in this country and the political parties intensify their campaigns. "The best polls are the multitudes drawn by the rallies we hold every day," asserted a nationalist leader. However, the liberals do not lag behind in their capacity for electoral meetings and gather thousands of followers every night in various parts of the country.

On the final stretch of the campaign, the main struggle between the traditional parties is centered on capturing the votes of the "undecided," which the polls estimate to be around 30 percent of the voters. That percentage is approximately 900,000 votes out of the 2.7 million citizens registered in the electoral census.

To attract those voters, the PNH has intensified propaganda over the last few days that accuses the liberals of being "communists" and "allies of Sandinism." For their part, the liberals ask voters to "pass the bill for the high cost of living" and to "vote as punishment against the nationalist government that imposed the neoliberal adjustment model."

Aside from the traditional parties, the minority Christian Democratic Party and Social Democratic Innovation and Unity Party, [PINU-SD] are also struggling for their share of power. Among the "small ones," the PINU, which nominated Olban Valladares as its candidate, also hopes to capitalize on the support of the undecided and to gain substantial support in the cities, where several polls give them 10 percent of the votes.

PLH Candidate Defines Platform

PA1111175593 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 0150 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Speech by Carlos Roberto Reina, presidential candidate for the Liberal Party of Honduras, PLH, defining his political platform at the Honduras Maya Hotel in Tegucigalpa on 8 November—live or recorded]

[Text] Honorable members of the Executive Central Council of the PLH; distinguished members of the main table; honorable members of the diplomatic corps in Honduras; distinguished Dr. Reinaldo Panting, who is here representing Mr. Jaime Rosenthal Oliva, who had not been mentioned as being present this evening; [applause] distinguished former first ladies of the nation, who are the pride of the Republic of Honduras; [applause] distinguished Mrs. Lolita Reina de Watson, representing the women who have stood out in the PLH struggles; [applause] invited guests; Honduran people who are listening to me:

I will now reveal the essential elements of a government program based on the national reality. What is the international context of the end of this century and of the end of this millennium? What are the challenges? Honduras' political hour is charged with intense drama. On the one hand, the economic situation worsens each day and on the other hand, a new global order is being formed in which the efficiency and competitiveness of the countries are important factors when participating with possibilities of success in the world.

The new geopolitical situation brings two challenges for the countries of the world: protecting and promoting democracy in an atmosphere of peace and accelerating the development of human potential. These are topics that were adopted by the UN General Assembly as an international strategy for development in the 1990's. The United Nations conceive human development as an expansion of the opportunities and capabilities of peoples: freedom of action as well as development of the people's potentials and creativity. That is why we are now speaking about human development.

This concept is not new. It is not a dogma either and it is not mentioned because it is in fashion. It is a political proposal to advance in what we have called economic, social, and political development in a well-protected environment. The most recent criteria to draft a strategy on human development are based on the following fundamental components: economic growth, equitable distribution of income, social policy, and human freedom.

In the drafting of our government program, which we are now presenting to all Honduran citizens for their consideration, we base ourselves on two primary concepts: First, we cannot offer what we are incapable of fulfilling and, second, the changes in the world context—the globalization of economic relations and the formation of blocs—impose a radical new strategy not only with regard to the economy but also with regard to the role of the state and civilian society as well as with regard to our relations with the rest of the world. Our program is not limited to what can be done in the four-year presidential term but also aspires to lay the groundwork for the country's future development to prepare Hondurans for the challenges that lie ahead with the new millennium.

Consensus, participation, and elimination of corruption are the basic premises of the government program. We are placing special stress on the construction of a government of consensus and social participation because we think every man and woman of this country is entitled to participate in the decisions on the state's major issues, and because this mode of administering the affairs of the government can ensure governability of the country and counter the trends toward individualism and direct action [as heard] that are seen in the life of the nation.

Our decision to fight corruption is as important as the above. Corruption has taken its grim toll on government decisions and activities, as everyone knows that treachery and unlawfulness in public actions, chiefly in the past years, have branded Honduras in front of other countries and diminished the government's resources to handle the fundamental problems of the country. That is why we are insisting on the moral revolution that grants the historic course of our country a new ethical sense, our's and the others'.

Now, participation, consensus, and the war on corruption can only be handled regularly under the rule of law. For that reason, we insist on the legitimacy of power and growth with equality as the basis for social peace. We have suffered more than our share of illegal actions and abuses of arbitrary power not to know the high cost that

it entails for the progress of the nation, security of individuals, or general evolution of society.

Economic and social policy.

In past years, Honduran society has been immersed in a restructuring program that has had negative effects on the nation's economic and the people's welfare. In 1990 through restructuring, the nationalist government set out to increase production, stabilize the economy, and improve the people's standard of living. None of that was achieved, quite the contrary, production was weakened, exports dropped, macroeconomic imbalances continue, and the living standard of most Hondurans is worse today than four years ago.

The inflation rate in the past four years has reached almost 100 percent, representing a harsh blow to the economy of the people. The profound deterioration in welfare is seen in the growing levels of poverty. In 1989, seven out of 10 Hondurans lived in poverty, and five out of every 10 lived in extreme poverty. Now in 1993, eight of every 10 Hondurans are poor, and six out of every 10 live in conditions of extreme poverty. There has been a lack of clear rules on the economic policy. Favoritism to privileged groups and the serious cancer of corruption are, among other things, some of the causes that prevent a climate of confidence for productive investment. We have an economy that is best described by its chaos, disorder, and speculation, with fateful consequences for the people's present and immediate future.

Any alternative to modify this must face with decisiveness the serious problem of poverty. This encounter is nothing other than the definition of a national strategy of development along four basic points: greater production, stable economic growth, equitable economic growth, and steady economic growth. All this within an institutional framework that strengthens democracy, that supports modernization of the state, and that it all be the result of a broad national consensus.

We plan to strengthen national production to encourage exports without neglecting the local market. To achieve this, it is necessary to support the small and medium enterprise sector throughout the country. This will contribute to an equitable distribution of capital and create employment. We believe that this will put us in a position to promote development that will have a broader national basis.

The developing, transforming, and redesigning of the national economic apparatus, to increase productivity and competitiveness, must be based on the creation of productive employment, technical progress, and the training of human resources. It must also be based on the reactivation of the national economy, especially the agricultural and industrial sectors. We plan to organize activities in such a way so there will be intense interaction and a more dynamic generation of productive jobs.

In the agricultural sector, our goal is to reach higher production and productivity levels to supply the local market and to export. To achieve this we must guarantee the peasants' rights to the land and to harmonize private property with productive activities in the framework of a market economy.

For these concepts to become a reality it is necessary to review, first of all, the law for the modernization and development of the agricultural sector to evaluate the effects of this law, to keep what is positive and to reform what needs to be reformed for the better development of the sector. This review will have to include participation by those who are directly interested.

The main aspects of the agricultural policy have to do with secure food supplies, the peasants' access to the land, support for production, the development of traditional and nontraditional exports, the development of the agricultural and industrial sectors, and the rational exploitation of natural resources.

Regarding the industrial sector, our program realizes that it is necessary to again acknowledge what this sector represents in the country's economic growth. We will back the restructuring of industrial enterprises requesting this support to improve their efficiency and their competitive capabilities. To have an industrialization process essentially based on our own natural resources, on an efficient and specialized financial system, and on modern technology, it is necessary that the private and government sectors make joint efforts in this direction.

Low fiscal deficits are one important element of stable growth. We propose working for a 3-percent deficit of the GNP and to increase revenues by adopting measures capable of preventing tax evasion. It is also necessary to review public expenditures to make them adequate to the country's needs. It is also necessary to transfer funds being spent on nonproductive activities to socially productive activities. This means increasing expenditures directed at the social sector to eliminate situations of poverty and misery. Fortunately, international organizations currently have these objectives.

Exchange rate stability.

This most important macroeconomic aspect must be managed according to the law, based on the analyses and decisions of the Central Bank of Honduras. This does not mean disregarding the role that the market plays in fixing exchange rates. We will fight at all costs speculation, which harms all sectors.

We think, and our platform establishes, that a stable macroeconomic framework and an environment suitable for investments; such as reasonable tariffs, adequate interest rates, skilled labor, and the use of technology to promote our development, are the best possible guarantees to encourage local and foreign investors to productively put to work their savings.

We hereby assert in our program that we will respect and continue to apply economic measures aimed at

improving the country's basic administrative situation within a framework of social liberalism which is the foundation of our doctrine. This means ensuring the adequate equilibrium between covering the needs of the majority and macroeconomic balance.

Of course, our fundamental commitment and favored choice lies with the underprivileged sectors of the population. This sector of the population has been deliberately cast aside by the current administration. This commitment is augmented as a result of our deepest conviction that the best investment we can undertake in order to grow and compete in wide-ranging economic relations is, among others, by ensuring the health and education of all Hondurans. Most of all the younger generation, because this is where we will find the foundations that will strengthen the new phase of our national development. [sentence as heard] Nevertheless, whatever growth rate we experience during the next four years, in any case, it must be sustainable. In other words, it should turn back the accelerated and progressive deterioration of the environment which constitutes one of Honduras' most pressing problems. Not giving proper attention to this issue could lead the country to decertification [decertificacion] and waste the patrimony of our future generation.

The social policy.

The aforementioned prompted us to try to ensure a systematic link between economic policy and social policy. Thus abandoning, as much as possible, actions that may tend to exclude any sector in the struggle against poverty. The strategy to ensure this objective consists of harmonizing economic policies around a group of priority problems as well as ensuring the cooperation and participation of the public and private sector to accomplish these objectives. The economic and political sustainability of any development model lies in being able to turn over, in the short and medium term, historical regressive conditions in the distribution of benefits obtained through development. These considerations, added to the fundamental principles of our basic idea of a moral revolution, is what has prompted us to suggest in-depth social reforms and the elimination of poverty.

The basic objective of the government economic program we plan to inaugurate, God willing, in January 1994, will be to halt the accelerated falling standard of living of most of the population which undermines those most sensitive: women and children. In the short run, the economic program also aims at neutralizing the humiliating effects of poverty. Concretely, we plan to cover the needs of the poorest departments, the less developed municipalities, the most needy households living in the run-down neighborhoods of the main cities, children younger than seven years old where we can find the most problems, and women, especially those who are pregnant and in the nursing stage.

Actions related to health, education, nutrition, and housing will occupy a prominent position in our fundamental program. In any case, our social policies start with the premise that the best way to satisfy the fundamental needs of all Hondurans is to offer the best employment opportunities and thus offer the population the opportunity of taking charge of their own destiny free of any paternalistic considerations.

Institutional framework and respect for the rights of the individual. An economy in balance and experiencing sustained growth, a just and progressive society requires the support of a modern, efficient, and democratic state apparatus. Therefore, it is imperative for us to redefine the role played by the state opposite the population and reform the public administration in general according to the country project we all want with a view to the 21st century.

In this government program I have described the means through which we will attain these lofty goals.

The Legislative, Judicial, and Executive Branches must be transformed in the light of current and future challenges and especially in light of what is demanded by the new international order. We must modernize the manner in which we legislate and impart justice; these are issues that must be dealt with immediately lest we lose our credibility before the nations of the world.

As the liberal I have been all my life, I aspire to a democratic society in which no social or economic group or any authority, political or otherwise, will occupy a hegemonic position capable of threatening freedom. All men and women are equal by law, which implies they must have equal opportunities for the total development of their human potential. [applause]

It is enough to remember that men are created in the image of God to enforce the principles which humanity has so often failed to implement. I have devoted a considerable part of my life and professional career to the defense of human rights. I thought that by doing this I could contribute to our nation's international prestige and to domestic peace. My actions have been prompted by clamors for justice by victims of human rights violations.

My government will support our country's human rights organizations and respect human rights conventions and treaties. I will make every effort to prevent Honduras from ever again being subjected to international trials involving these rights so that it will be viewed instead as a nation in which people can live in freedom and democracy. [applause]

The role I have played in human rights organizations and what I have done about human rights throughout my career, authorizes me to unmask those people who, in the name of a false democracy and a twisted concept of freedom, are attempting to bequeath to us their exclusive

heritage: totalitarianism of thought and action and dogmatic intransigence worthy of a fascist tyranny. [applause]

Regarding Women and Children.

With regard to the full implementation of human rights, I have included in my program the steps that will be taken to counter discrimination against women in every aspect of social life and to establish that women are just as important to the country's development as men. [applause] To this end, I will devote all my efforts to combat any form of discrimination by giving women full equality of opportunities. [applause]

I will struggle to change the social-cultural patterns that foster and intensify this discrimination and all forms of physical and psychological violence against women. I am willing to transform the educational system to change social-cultural patterns that create these situations. Such transformations will require the creation of new laws or the reformation of existing laws. I have taken a great interest in childhood programs, especially for children who are victims of abandonment, illness, and poverty. We must achieve the goals of social rehabilitation and organization that will drastically eradicate such problems as the abandonment of children who find themselves stuck in a sordid existence with no hope for the future. [applause]

We will also defend the rights of the various ethnic groups to land that historically belonged to them. We will defend their cultural values [applause] and their spiritual and personal safety.

The Moral Revolution.

The presentation of the government program that we will put into effect during the 1994-98 period, God permitting, makes us reflect on the situation that the country will face following the 28 November resounding victory. [applause]

Regarding the state of the economy, we will face the deterioration of the main macroeconomic variables. The structural adjustment, which has meant poverty among middle and lower classes, will continue to produce negative effects to the standard of living if civilian society and the government do not agree on a renewed and far-sighted pact for the fundamental aspects of Honduran everyday life.

We are well aware of the problems that our main export products, bananas and coffee, have to contend with. The immediate future does not appear too optimistic regarding our international trade balance and (?increased foreign financing). Our government program includes ideas and actions that will allow us to begin to overcome this situation and even make some headway in satisfying the people's expectations during this new term by the Liberal Party of Honduras.

It is my duty as a Honduran and as a candidate for president to warn the citizens of the current state of affairs in Honduras, so that together we can inaugurate a new chapter in our history, with a deep sense of honesty, and with very clear and heightened patriotism.

The current electoral campaign in which the traditional political adversary does not hesitate to use slander to discredit and snatch away power, makes us believe more than ever on the need for the moral revolution for which we have been preaching a long time before I was a candidate. [applause]

Only with a moral revolution, which must begin now, can we hope to eliminate from our society the political conditions that allow unethical citizens to become candidates for the presidency of the Republic of Honduras. [applause]

We hope, with our confidence in the people's clear perception, that this government program will be analyzed and discussed by all sectors of our citizenry so that they be better informed and help us shape a government in which everyone, without any sort of exception, can find support and a solution to their problems. Power to the people on 28 November! [applause]

Nicaragua

Ortega Proposes Referendum on Privatization

PA1111132593 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 9 Nov 93 pp 1, 12

[Report by Pablo Emilio Barreto]

[Text] Daniel Ortega, secretary general of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, proposed on 8 November that the government call a referendum to confirm if the people agree with the privatization of public services such as electricity, potable water, telephone, hospitals, health centers, and elementary and secondary schools.

Ortega made that proposal on the night of 8 November at the Revolution Plaza at the conclusion of activities commemorating FSLN founder Carlos Fonseca, killed in combat 17 years ago in the Zinica mountains. Similar activities were held in other departments, specifically in Leon, Chontales, and Boaco, which were headed by Sandinist leaders Luis Carrion, Bayardo Arce, and Sergio Ramirez, respectively.

With regard to the referendum, Ortega said that if the government is not willing to call the referendum, the FSLN could organize one in the country's urban and rural communities to let the government know that the people are against the privatization of basic public services. As an example, he mentioned the Uruguayan people, who have not had a revolution, but overwhelmingly voted not rejecting the privatization of public services.

During his speech, Ortega asked those present—approximately 5,000 Sandinists—to express their opinion on the subject. In response, those present raised their hands to show their opposition to privatization. Ortega said the FSLN and National Workers Front (FNT) deputies could reach an agreement to draft a law that would serve as a "handcuff" tying the government's hands, to prevent the privatization.

Ortega was accompanied by FSLN Managua Coordinator Victor Hugo Tinoco, Commander Fonseca's widow Haydee Teran, and Mario Malespin. The latter rejected the privatization of public services on behalf of the FNT.

Ortega said the government will continue to try to deprive the poor people from having access to public services, which "is incongruent," as even in the United States President Clinton is subsidizing public services in areas such as health. Ortega called for the unity of all Sandinists and continued adherence to the examples of General Sandino, Carlos Fonseca, and other heroes and martyrs of the Sandinist People's Revolution.

Nicaraguan artists Carlos Mejia and Los de Palacaguina participated in the event, accompanied by the Galo Family and the Managua Experimental Dance Group. All day yesterday, Carlos Fonseca's mausoleum was visited by thousands of children, adults, students, and Managua residents. Sandinists from El Eden neighborhood fired 21 mortars [morterazos] in honor of the Sandinist founder.

Sandinist Urges Daniel Ortega To End 'Demagoguery'

PA1111234193 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 9 Nov 93 pp 1, 12

[Article by Maria Alicia Talavera]

[Text] Yesterday, Sandinist Deputy William Ramirez, coauthor with Deputy Mauricio Valenzuela of the controversial draft Law on Regulating the Privatization of Public Services, said the legislative draft was drawn up two months ago "in compliance with a Sandinist Assembly order."

Ramirez was abroad last week when differences on this issue came out in the public between the Sandinist National Liberation Front's (FSLN) parliamentary faction and the National Workers Front (FNT). The FNT is supported by the FSLN's secretary general [Daniel Ortega].

During a news conference, Ramirez expressed his "concern for the FSLN's internal situation," as well as for the "confusion, not only among the leaders who have questioned the draft bill, but also among the Sandinist rank-and-file," generated by the privatization debate. Ramirez said an image was being created that top-ranking FSLN leaders "are fighting for their share of power," while the rank-and-file is "fighting for a meal."

The legislator added: "What is being debated are matters of a political nature. Nevertheless, the image being portrayed is that Sergio and Daniel are fighting. This is not the real issue."

Ramirez called on Commander Daniel Ortega, FSLN secretary general, to "assume his position as national leader and former president of the Republic." This, in his opinion, means to work for FSLN unity and also to support the draft bill in order that basic public services are not privatized.

Given that the former president supports the withdrawal of the draft bill, Ramirez indicated that, if this occurs, in January everything will be privatized. Ramirez recalled that the Ninth Legislative Period concludes on 15 December. The draft bill, currently in a legislative commission, must be presented for debate during this period.

Ramirez stressed that Commander Ortega should "reflect and analyze these matters," as "he should portray an image of a statesman, a well-balanced man, and a leader who is seeking FSLN unity," instead of siding with one FSLN faction. "He cannot continue employing demagoguery in the name of the poor," he added.

Ramirez commented that, according to official FSLN documents, the only true and legal reality it endorses is the state of Law. That "legal part is accomplished here in the Legislative Assembly," he noted. He indicated that the legislature's and the rank-and-file's struggles complement one another by getting laws enacted that favor the people. "We belong to the same party and our struggles complement one another," he noted. Meanwhile, he called for an end to the wave of anonymous threats being made against several Sandinist deputies, among them Ramirez himself. He insisted on refraining from internal struggles among Sandinists, thereby avoiding cases such as that of Roque Dalton, Salvadoran revolutionary leader, who was murdered by his own comrades in arms. Ramirez promised that all actions undertaken by the Sandinist parliamentary faction "are approved by the FSLN National Directorate."

Sergio Ramirez said that the draft bill has become controversial now after practically everything has been privatized. The draft bill provides for the privatization processes to be regulated through laws to establish a legal framework. This framework would govern all actions of total or partial privatization, as well as govern permanent or temporary impositions of charges or liabilities on state companies or institutions that provide public services. Education, health, and social security are not included in the draft bill.

Article Urges FSLN To Resolve Privatization Differences

PA1211161793 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 9 Nov 93 p 11

[Article by Carlos F. Chamorro B.]

[Text] The debate in the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] over what is the most revolutionary and effective strategy to defend popular and national interests in the face of the government's intention to privatize public services has turned into a bitter exchange over Sandinist principles, ways to fight, and leadership. Confusion and mistakes abound.

The main mistake stems from an extremely simplistic assumption, bordering on political disqualification, according to which a sector (the Sandinist bench) favors privatization, while on the other side the FNT [National Workers Front] flatly refuses on principle. The conclusion of this Manichaean logic is that some identify with defending the interests of the poor while others attempt to accommodate themselves to neoliberalism, if they are not fully embracing its precepts already.

This black or white perception, however, ignores the multiple shades of reality. Those who say they are against privatization by objecting to the draft bill presented by the Sandinist bench risk supporting the government's interest that privatization should take place unhindered and disregarding all laws. Contrary to what is being said, withdrawal of this draft bill would not strengthen popular mobilization but would instead weaken it because it makes things easier for the government to privatize without openness or any obligation to society, taking away the opportunity for citizens to participate and debate it publicly and leaving everything in the hands of the bidding process with the economic groups. Ironically, the result will be that those who, based on alleged principles, advocate "nonprivatization" will in fact become unconditional allies of the government's privatization plans.

There is another argument that emphasizes the need to complement the people's struggle with a "more radical and revolutionary" bill than the one presented by the Sandinist deputies. Unfortunately, it is a deceptive argument. According to this proposal, the bill must specify that the privatization of other basic services—in addition to health, education, and social security, which, according to the Constitution, should be free—is absolutely prohibited. it does not tell the people the truth about the congruence and political viability of such initiatives.

Of course the current bill can be improved, and frankly, differences between Sandinists are small. Popular sectors, however, are being deceived because they are not being told that such a radical bill, in addition to closing doors to the detriment of potential interests of users and workers, has no possibility of becoming a law—at least not in time to stop the government—simply because the FSLN is not a majority but a minority party in the National Assembly.

In order to make laws, Sandinists must negotiate with other political forces and identify some points of agreement. Without the advantageous absolute majority the FSLN obtained in the 1984 elections, there is no other possible course of legislative action. We are indeed facing a crisis of adapting to the new political reality. If progovernment deputies in the National Assembly so decide, the "radical" prohibition, which, by the way, was not implemented previously when privatization benefited the workers, will have no possibility of becoming a law. Again, without a law limiting the privatization of services, political radicalism would be a valuable support for the government positions.

The effectiveness of the defense of principles should be measured by practical political results. We are not saying that the law regulating privatization will be a life insurance policy for popular interests. Accompanied by popular actions, however, it will enable Sandinism to struggle in a more advantageous position to defend the interests of users and workers. In the long run, political effectiveness, not rhetoric, is the only measure consequent with principles.

All this discussion, which reflects serious differences in the Sandinist leadership, has been reduced to a vulgar confrontation due to threats and blackmail. Death threats against five Sandinist deputies who last week supported the bill to stop privatization are indicative of a terrible lack of arguments. Resorting to "revolutionary terror" to influence a discussion among Sandinists has much of terror but nothing of revolution. Blackmail is a reactionary action that all Sandinists should strongly condemn.

Workers Front Maintains Opposition to Privatization

PA1211170193 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Report by Erica Ramirez from the "National Newscast;" passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Despite the resolution adopted by the Sandinist Assembly ratifying the privatization bill, the National Workers Front, FNT, is not thoroughly convinced that it should support it. The Sandinist deputies could not make the FNT change its position so divisions within Sandinist groups continue.

The FNT maintained its rejection of the bill on the privatization of public services. After meeting for more than three hours, the Sandinist bloc and the FNT failed to reach any agreement on the subject and decided to meet again on 16 November, when both sides will present their proposals on the law. Here is FNT leader Lucio Jimenez.

[Jimenez] "I think if we all adjust our position we can make some progress, at least on some points."

The FNT maintained its opposition and announced it will consult its legal advisers to seek a bill prohibiting privatization.

[Ramirez] "Are there differences with the Sandinist bloc?"

[Jimenez] "Yes, there are."

[Ramirez] "Will you propose a law that will say no to privatization?"

[Jimenez] "Yes, that is more or less the idea."

Meanwhile, the members of the Sandinist bloc today said the Sandinist Assembly fully supports their bill.

In that regard, Sandinist Deputy William Ramirez said:

[William Ramirez] "This bill now has the support of the Sandinist Assembly. As the Sandinist bloc, we will maintain the criteria expressed before on the need to regulate privatization."

The FNT position shows its disagreement with the Sandinist Assembly's resolution, although its leaders belong to that organization and as members must follow its guidelines.

To that effect, FSLN Secretary General Daniel Ortega said:

[Ortega] "Yes, they must comply with political decisions."

Differences of opinion among Sandinists continue, reflecting an internal struggle for leadership within the party.

Sandinist Assembly Resolution on Privatization

PA1211171993 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 11 Nov 93 p 5

[Resolution from the Sandinist Assembly "to the people of Nicaragua and to FSLN militants, members, and supporters;" place and date not given]

[Text] Brothers: The Sandinist Assembly held special sessions on 9 and 10 November 1993. The National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] presided over these sessions where the privatization of basic services was discussed. Since this topic is of interest to all Nicaraguans and the democratic nature of Sandinism allowed it to be discussed amply and at length, the Sandinist Assembly hereby resolves:

1. To deplore the tone used and the attitude assumed by some Sandinist leaders in the debate about the so-called Law to Regulate the Privatization of Public Service Enterprises and to call for a responsible and respectful discussion that will help to strengthen Sandinist unity.

2. To reject and condemn the threats made against comrades who are members of the Sandinist bloc and other FSLN members. Likewise, to reject the charges that methods such as these stem from within the Sandinist ranks and to alert the Sandinists to the manipulations of the enemies of the people, who are bent on dividing and destroying the FSLN.

3. To reiterate that the purpose of the Law to Regulate the Privatization of Public Service Enterprises sponsored by the Sandinist bloc must be to halt the disorderly privatization that the government has been carrying out behind the people's backs and to the detriment of our national interests.

4. To support the principle that all assets, enterprises, shares, and property in general that belong to the state should not be sold or given away except as provided for in a law.

5. To state that the Sandinist Assembly is categorically opposed to partial, total, overt, or covert privatization of the institutions, organizations, or enterprises responsible for the services of education, health, and social security, because it is the state's responsibility to guarantee increasing access to those basic services to the Nicaraguan people.

6. To state that the Sandinist bloc must carry out a broad consultation with the different national sectors to make sure that the proposed Law to Regulate the Privatization of Public Service Enterprises will guarantee the effective protection of the interests of the entire Nicaraguan people.

7. To reiterate that the Sandinist Assembly, as the body that directs the party between conventions, is the only body with the authority to approve the objectives and general guidelines of the political negotiations promoted by the FSLN in its search for solutions to the crisis Nicaragua is experiencing.

8. To instruct the FSLN Negotiating Commission to implement the points outlined in this resolution in its search for a National Salvation Agreement.

The Sandinist Assembly calls on all Sandinists to close ranks to defend the interests of the Nicaraguan people in the best possible way. Free fatherland or death!

Catholic Bishops Call for Plebiscite

PA1211201493 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Nicaraguan Catholic bishops held a three-day meeting in Bluefields and called for a plebiscite in Nicaragua to learn what the people want for the country's political, social, and economic future. The Catholic priests' call for a plebiscite is expressed in a pastoral message issued after their Bluefields meeting. In the message the bishops state that the Nicaraguan people's wishes for a Constituent Assembly or amendments to the Constitution must be put to a vote. The members of the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference also reminded the

Nicaraguan politicians and government officials that their duty is to work for and ensure the welfare of the Nicaraguan people.

UNO Official Reviews Talks With Government

PA1111032093 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 9 Nov 93

[From "The Five O'Clock Sharp" newscast]

[Text] Miriam Arguello, coordinator of the National Opposition Union [UNO] commission negotiating with the executive branch, has reported: Our meeting with the government produced significant progress. Let us hear what she had to say:

[Begin recording] [Arguello] Some UNO parties, seven to be specific, have spoken in favor of a constituent assembly. Three UNO parties, including mine [the Conservative Popular Action Party], have said that it is not time for a constituent assembly but, rather, for partial reforms that would have the same effect as a constituent assembly.

Approximately a week ago, UNO issued a resolution noting that the alliance will try to draft a constitutional reforms program before 30 November in agreement with the Sandinist Front. This agreement will be sought for the simple reason that, in order to have constitutional reforms, we need the Sandinist Front's support to get 56 votes. To have a constituent assembly, we would have to negotiate with the Sandinist Front again, but this time to get 72 votes.

For this reason, it was decided to promote the effort to obtain constitutional reforms. Logically, those parties that favor the constituent assembly but voted for the constitutional reforms motion set one condition, a gimmick calling for the restructuring of the National Assembly and the recovery of their parliamentary majority. This is one of the things that is stated in the document.

I do not know if these parties, all seven of them, or perhaps less than seven of them that continue exerting controls, still want a constituent assembly.

[Unidentified reporter] [words indistinct] of UNO at this moment.

[Arguello] It is not that they are not conceding, it is that they want the constituent assembly the same way we want partial reforms. They have said that if the partial reforms, including the conditions that have been outlined in the document, are secured before 30 November, they will accept the partial reforms.

Also, those of us who believe that a constituent assembly is not suitable at this time are committing ourselves to promoting the constituent assembly motion in case no agreement is reached on the partial reforms by 30 November. This is the arrangement. No one can keep me from saying that I am in favor of the partial reforms, and the others cannot be kept from saying that they prefer the constituent assembly. There is an agreement that has set a 30 November deadline.

[Reporter] How do you view the talks with the executive branch? It appears that they are at an impasse right now, that they are pivoting around the same point. Is this true? The president is going to be out of the country for 10 days.

[Arguello] Yesterday, we initiated discussions on the essential points: the Executive Branch and the Army. We made progress on this very important issues. Right now, the pending issue is the consultations that the ministers need to hold with the president. The ministers are delegates of the president. We have decisionmaking power because the 10 UNO parties are participating in the talks, but the ministers have to hold consultations. This is the arrangement. We have made progress on the key issues. We now have to wait for the president to see, once she returns, what we have so that we may see what the results are, what she will approve, and what she will not. This is the situation.

[Reporter] UNO's key objective is to recover its majority in the National Assembly. If I am not mistaken, this is the key objective of all these negotiations. What progress has been made in this regard?

[Arguello] I cannot answer this because I have not met with anyone from the Center Bloc. I know there are politicians and political parties trying to lure the Center Bloc members, at least some of them, as many as possible, into returning to UNO.

This is what I know about this. I do not know how much progress has been made. I do not know how much progress will be made by 30 November. I just hope and wish that the Center Bloc members analyze the situation and realize how important it is for Nicaragua to be able to resolve its problems, as well as that they do their best effort to find solutions. [end recording]

FSLN, UNO To Start Constitutional Reforms Talks

PA1311132493 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 12 Nov 93 p 4

[Report by Maria Alicia Talavera]

[Text] The Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) and the National Opposition Union (UNO) agreed yesterday to start discussions aimed at reaching a consensus on constitutional reforms and for these to be included into the agenda of the National Assembly legislative period, which is expected to conclude on 15 December.

Two commissions appointed by both political organizations met yesterday for more than two hours at the FSLN national directorate secretariat, where the announcement was made; in addition, they said that they would be meeting this afternoon at the Olof Palme Convention

Center to prepare an agenda and present their respective proposals. Likewise, they both agreed to initiate the necessary steps and encourage their respective blocs to respond positively to the consensus initiative on the before mentioned issue.

Mirian Arguello, Conservative Popular Alliance [APC] deputy, stated, in representing the UNO delegation, that "at this time we are committed to discussing and arriving at an agreement on the constitutional reform project" which, if accomplished, will constitute "a significant step within the framework of a national agreement, because the Republic's fundamental law is the essence of everything."

Arguello and FSLN Secretary Daniel Ortega stressed the importance of the contributions various sectors of society should make by way of their trade unions, organizations, or media. The meeting coincided with Ortega's 48th birthday. Ortega cut a cake, which journalists covering the UNO-FSLN meeting presented him.

Ms. Arguello repeated that "we are here with the FSLN to try and construct a constitutional reforms package to be presented to the legislature; in a word, that is what we agreed upon at the UNO, and we are going to make our best effort in bringing it about. We are not discussing whether to call a constituent assembly or hold a plebiscite," the conservative leader said, in a clear reference to the statements issued by the Episcopal Conference calling for a plebiscite. She recalled that the UNO had recently expressed its support for reforms. Regarding the reentry of the UNO legislators into the National Assembly, she said that "this is a different matter that must be dealt with within the UNO."

Deputy Cairo Manuel Lopez of the Christian Democratic Union, (a member of the UNO), said that this issue was included in the talks between legislators from his party, the FSLN, and the Center Bloc. It could also be an issue for the UNO Political Council and the FSLN National Directorate.

FSLN Secretary General Daniel Ortega highlighted the agreement between the two delegations to work on the reforms package and to present them to the assembly during the current legislature.

"It is important for us to define the basic constitutional issues that we will reform to meet that objective. That is why we will meet again tomorrow (today)," she commented.

Sergio Ramirez and Bayardo Arce, members of the FSLN National Directorate, were also part of the FSLN talks delegation. Representing the UNO were Luis Sanchez, Adolfo Jarquin and Sergio Garcia Quintero, among others.

EPS Troops Regain Control of San Jose de Bocay

PA1411044093 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 11 Nov 93 p 4

[Article by Juan Carlos Sarmiento]

[Text] Matagalpa—Captain Osman Corea, chief of the EPS Command in Jinotega, reported that ground and airborne troops of the Sandinist People's Army yesterday regained control of San Jose de Bocay, which for six days was the object of several incursions by recontras led by Northiel [Wilfredo Gutierrez]. The military operations began Thursday night when troops moved in and were reinforced by airborne troops, the military officer reported. There had not been any fighting, however, until yesterday

Approximately 50 recontras headed by Musun, Lobo [Omar Martinez], Terror, Ayapal, and El Negro abandoned the positions they had taken up northeast, south, and southwest of the town, from where they had controlled everything and could go down in search of food.

Military officers who led the operation to regain control of San Jose de Bocay last night were estimating the amount of damage caused by the presence of the recontras, who are being pursued by Army troops, Corea stated.

Another military source reported an intense armed clash between Army troops and men led by Recontra Carlota that resulted in two civilians wounded in El Copalar east of Rio Blanco. Carlota and his men forced a truck driver to transport them. When they noticed a military patrol on the highway, they got off the truck, fought with Army troops for about 15 minutes, and fled.

Movement Demands UN Participation in Peace Process

PA1511024593 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 12 Nov 93 p 2

[Text] On its third anniversary, the "Let's Save Democracy Movement" [MSD] addressed a communique to Nicaraguan society in which it demands from the United Nations, a worldwide forum, "the same treatment and concern that it has shown neighboring El Salvador."

"UN Observers for El Salvador and Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali himself have made powerful statements against the murder of Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front members, and we expect them to do likewise for the more than 300 Nicaraguan Resistance commandos and commanders who have been murdered by Sandinist National Liberation Front death squads," the communique stated.

The MSD also wants President Chamorro, whom it holds responsible as the supreme chief of the Armed Forces, to "stop the military offensive unleashed against

the humble peasants of northern Nicaragua." The movement also demands in the communique that the United Nations participate in the Tripartite Commission.

To conclude, the MSD urges the National Opposition Union to remain united and "not allow itself to be manipulated by the FSLN's maneuvers." The communique is signed by MSD General Coordinator Dr. Humberto Castilla and Deputy Coordinator Dr. Nardo Sequeira.

Esteli Roadblock Situation Ends in Agreement

PA1411041693 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Nov 93 p 2

[Report by Martha Marina Gonzalez]

[Text] Esteli—The demobilized members of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] and National Armed Self-Defense Movement [MADNA] reopened the Pan-American Highway, this city's southern exit, after signing an agreement to incorporate three of their members into the housing, land, and social affairs commissions.

As stated in the record of the meeting, the protesters did not achieve their goal of removing the MADNA high commanders. They accused the leaders of fraud and treason against the movement, but have now recognized that they fed false information to the media.

The accusations came after the demanders posted themselves around the municipal complex and then along the Pan-American Highway. Upon ending their protest they said that it was prompted by government noncompliance with MADNA agreements. The rebels agreed to suspend all action and encourage those who have benefited from the program to fulfill their commitments.

Representatives of the MADNA high command, a delegation of demonstrators, a delegate from the governor's office, the police commander and the commander of the Sandinist People's Army, and Captain Denis Palma, who is in charge of agreement follow up efforts at the Government Ministry, attended the meeting that led to the agreement.

Former Lieutenant Colonel Convicted of Sequeira Murder

PA1411144993 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Nov 93 p 4

[Report by Mercedes Peralta]

[Text] Leon—A jury has convicted former Lieutenant Colonel Frank Ibarra Silva of the murder of Arges Sequeira [president of the National Federation of Owners of Confiscated Property who was killed in November 1992], while acquitting Diego Javier Espinoza Herrera and German Lacayo Guerrero. Juan Carlos Vilchez, Ibarra's court-appointed defense council, meanwhile, has announced he will begin proceedings within the relevant courts to secure amnesty for his client.

Judge Oscar Antonio Garcia Orozco announced the verdict to the parties' attorneys and Victor Manuel Ordonez, the general secretary of the Attorney General's Office, who accompanied other representatives from the Attorney General's Office to Leon.

Juan Carlos Vilchez told the press he was still convinced of Ibarra's innocence and he affirmed that the verdict will prompt him to request amnesty for his client before the courts and, if possible, before the International Court of Justice. He made it clear that he will not appeal the court's decision, because this would imply that the verdict was not properly obtained or that certain attenuating circumstances should be taken into account.

Regarding the guilty verdict handed down against Ibarra Silva, he said that it could have been motivated by statements Ibarra made before television cameras while he was a leader of the Leftist Punitive Forces (FPI). Vilchez pointed out, however, that Ibarra's demobilization and concentration actions were a demonstration of sincerity on his part and, therefore, he should be granted the full benefits of the law.

Answering reporters' questions, he did not justify the murder of Arges Sequeira, but he highlighted the FPI chief's efforts in defense of the poor.

Article Notes Changing U.S. Policy, National Accord

PA1411142793 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Nov 93 p 11

[Article by Orlando Gomez: "A U.S. Turn Toward Nicaragua?"]

[Text] In the Nicaragua of the eighties and into this decade, the game of politics has been based on rules of confrontation. The extreme rightists have taken instinctive attitudes regarding the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] and pushed them to such an extreme that, if Sandinism were to disappear, their political raison d'etre would vanish. They would no longer have anyone to confront, but then, Nicaragua would still be far from a paradise. In the past two decades, the extreme rightists have always had the support of U.S. administrations. It was customary for policies implemented here to be drafted in Washington.

An analysis of U.S. foreign policy by my personal friend Arturo Cruz Jr. says that in Washington "there exists the impression that Nicaragua is a recurrent problem country" and that this has "led some Democrats and Republicans to view it as a chronically ill patient"—a patient that barely improves despite the assistance it receives.

Recently, U.S. Ambassador John F. Maisto said the current government had received some $1.2 billion

during the first two years of his term, but he added that the general opinion is that only a few have enjoyed economic recovery here.

Solution Is in Managua

In part, the new global concerns of the United States, aside from its simply being tired of Nicaragua, have led Alexander F. Watson, assistant secretary of state for Inter-American Affairs, to give a sort of coup de grace to those politicians who have gotten used to going to Washington to "get a green light" to pit Sandinism against the government.

The Clinton administration has said the solution to Nicaragua's problems does not lie in Washington. Speaking before a foreign relations committee, Watson reiterated this by saying: "Nicaraguan leaders of all political persuasions must understand that they have two alternatives:

"1. If there is a broad national consensus and political will to carry out Nicaragua's commitments in terms of democracy and human rights, protecting copyrights, civilian control of the military, and economic stimulation, Nicaraguans will see that the United States and the international community are ready to cooperate in an effective association to help their country be successful.

"2. In the absence of such a consensus and political will, international participation in Nicaragua will be reduced and the nation will have to postpone the day when it truly makes its transition to democratic rule and lays the cornerstone for long-term prosperity."

This is not to say that the United States has stopped meddling in Nicaragua's internal affairs. No. What it is doing is finally giving local politicians an opportunity to reach an agreement, because both it and the rest of the international community are in no position to be doling out large amounts of aid that fail to produce results.

A Marginal Sector of UNO [National Opposition Union]

More sensible political forces, such as the UDC [Christian Democratic Union], have gotten the message and adopted a constructive position. The FSLN has stated it is willing to engage in a dialogue on all topics, including those mentioned by Watson. Three UNO parties have also adopted similar positions. There are seven other UNO parties, however, that continue to advance arguments that go against achieving a consensus. If Sandinism says white, they say black, and vice versa.

These seven parties, whose social base is small, are the ones that have reacted to Watson's speech and Ambassador Maisto's statements as if they had been just hit with a cold slap in the face. They are attempting, through the constituent assembly—or, rather, by blackmailing the government—to obtain a power share that they would not get via constitutional reforms. The truth is that within UNO the score now stands at seven to three, and an agreement appears to be difficult.

Alfredo Cesar—a man who acted as envoy for Helms, later manipulated his UNO companions, and is the "United States' man"—has lost his stamina. Mayor Don Arnoldo maintains his belligerence in "the pit of his soul." Dr. Virgilio Godoy, with all due respect for the vice president, was practically revived politically by his September kidnapping and the FSLN's attitude toward him. In reality, the power of the other politicians remains relative, and this also includes Dr. Miriam Arguello.

In sum, U.S. policy toward Nicaragua is no longer the same as once promoted by Lawrence, Aronson, and Helms. This new policy must facilitate a national agreement. Although it is an involved process, it must not take too long. In January, we must prepare to request aid from the international community. The farming season is right around the corner and the people cannot endure much more. A chronically ill patient is on its death bed. Urgency is crucial.

Panama

President Says DEA 'Overstepped' Bounds

PA1411153093 Panama City MAGAZINE DOMINICAL EL SIGLO in Spanish 14 Nov 93 pp 1, 2

[Report by Roberto R. Rodriguez]

[Text] Incursions by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, better known as the DEA, have prompted reactions within the national government and have forced President Guillermo Endara to question some of this specialized intelligence corps' activities.

Speaking at the reinauguration of Arnulfist Party Headquarters, Endara said the DEA has "overstepped" its bounds of providing advisory services on drug trafficking matters as granted by the Government of Panama. The president said the North Americans are our friends, but he added that they are "guilty" of many things happening in Panama in relation to drug matters.

Foreign Minister Jose Raul Mulino has said DEA operations in Panama "worry" him because the agency is not reporting its activities. Mulino believes the Foreign Ministry must be made aware of these activities, understand the guidelines for cooperation, and have a document to support this work. He pointed out that, as long as he heads the Foreign Ministry, "I will see to it that this is maintained."

President Endara also said the country's image has been tainted because of the drug-trafficking problem. He also said a great deal of caution must be used to prepare lists of people linked to drug-trafficking activities, and he added that it is necessary to have evidence to back those charges.

[In a related 275-word report, Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish on page 8D of its 14 November edition adds: "President Endara said the United States cannot 'throw the first stone' in terms of drug-trafficking activities, because it is a country that consumes most of the drugs in the world." The report also says: "Endara admitted there is drug trafficking in Panama, but he said 'a lot of drug trafficking' also takes place in other countries. He said it is not true that 'everybody' is a drug trafficker, because 'most people in Panama are good.' Endara added that only 'a few rotten apples' are involved in this activity and must be brought to trial, regardless of their political affiliation."]

Cabinet Agrees to Sign Regional Economic Agreement

PA1411194593 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Nov 93 p 1

[Report by Ibeth Vega]

[Text] The government yesterday authorized the Planning and Economic Policy Ministry to sign on behalf of Panama the Cooperation Agreement of the General Treaty for Central American Economic Integration, which seeks to create a Central American economic community.

Through Cabinet Council Resolution No. 623, the government of President Guillermo Endara authorized the signing of the cooperation agreement with the Secretariat of Central American Economic Integration, (SIECA). SIECA is the technical and administrative body for the economic integration process.

On various occasions, Panama has expressed its willingness to integrate economically with Central America, but only if this process is gradual because of the economic differences that separate Panama from the other Central American countries.

At the most recent Central American presidential summit held in Guatemala, the presidents expressed their support for the North American Free Trade Agreement among the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Nevertheless, they also stressed they trust that a similar system will be established for their nations, with the same benefits as Mexico, through expanded market access to their products. Panama's integration into the Central American Parliament was approved a few days ago.

The government reiterated that the signing of this agreement will bring about commercial benefits and cooperation among the countries of the region because a commercial association with more than 30 million consumers is being formed. Nevertheless, both Panama and Costa Rica have rejected the aspects of a customs union and unlimited cross-border movement of people and capital.

Text of Electoral Tribunal

PA1311201493

[Editorial Report] Panama City Sistema de Television Educativa in Spanish at 1700 GMT on 13 Nov broadcasts the text of the Electoral Tribunal of the Republic of Panama as follows:

"Decree No. 37 of 27 October 93; whereby the regulations for the use of television channel 11 for the elections of 8 May of 1994 are established.

"Considering: That Article 134 of the political Constitution establishes the right of the political parties to use the government-administrated media under equal conditions; that television channel 11 is a government-administrated media and, as such, must fulfill the social role imposed by the political Constitution and Electoral Law;

"Decrees: Article No. 1: The time between 2000 and 2030, from Monday to Friday, between 8 November 1993 and Friday 6 May 1994, will be reserved by television channel 11 to be used, 15 minutes per week per party and free of charge, by the 10 duly constituted political parties."

Decree Creates Permanent Office for Canal Alternatives

PA1411223093 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 10 Nov 93 p 43

[Report by David Daniel Victoria]

[Text] The Panamanian Government issued an executive decree creating the Permanent Office for Panama Canal Alternatives, which will be in charge of maintaining Tripartite Commission technical documentation and final studies. The new office will be attached to the Foreign Ministry.

On 25 September in Panama City, the Panamanian, U.S., and Japanese Governments signed a Panama Canal Alternatives Study Commission agreement establishing the construction of a sea level canal to modernize the waterway.

According to recommendations in this agreement, the Panamanian Government must organize an administrative office to execute the various Tripartite Commission recommendations. Some of the tasks of this office will be to prepare and execute a national and international plan to disseminate study results and support the Panamanian Government in its dissemination plan. This office will also prepare a commission to seek closer cooperation among world waterways, particularly the Suez Canal. It will also recommend a plan to seek international financing and prepare future government work strategies and schemes for this project and others.

Executive Decree No. 225, dated 20 October 1993, also establishes that the office will have an administrative

structure made up of an honorary commissioner, who will direct office policies at the highest executive level, in addition to a technical and support group.

Poll Reveals Electorate Lack of Support for Parties

PA1511024193 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 10 Nov 93 p 1A

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] A CELA [Center for Latin American Studies] poll sponsored by the European Communities has revealed that 68 percent of the population does not support any political party and that [Papa Egoro President] Ruben Blades and Ernesto Perez Balladares are the preferred presidential candidates.

The poll was conducted in the latter part of October among 938 people living in the five districts of the metropolitan area (Panama, Colon, La Chorrera, San Miguelito, and Arraijan), which have a total population of 647,838. The CELA poll shows the low level of support that the 18 political parties in Panama still have and the electoral campaign's inability to increase the levels of support for the legally constituted parties.

Regarding preferences for presidential candidates, Blades and Perez Balladares tied at 11.6 percent. The singer-composer's [Blades] popularity decreased, and the PRD [Revolutionary Democratic Party] candidate's increased in comparison to the previous CELA poll.

Other candidates appearing in the CELA poll are [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement, Molirena] Guillermo Ford with 5 percent, [Arnulfist Party, PA] Mireya Moscoso de Gruber with 3.4 percent, and [Christian Democratic Party, PDC] Ricardo Arias Calderon with 3.1 percent. With the exception of the PA candidate, the other two politicians registered an increase in the polls.

After Blades, Perez Balladares, Ford, Moscoso de Gruber, and Arias Calderon, the politicians who stood out in the poll were MUN [National Unity Mission] candidate David Guerra and Solidarity Party president Samuel Lewis Galindo, who had not appeared in the former CELA poll.

The document revealing the poll results emphasized that former Panama City Mayor Omayra Correa "suffered from the effects of party politics, and her name has practically disappeared from the poll. In the past she came up among the six most frequently mentioned names."

Regarding the political parties, the PRD is at the top with 12.6 percent. It is followed by the Papa Egoro Party with 4.5 percent, the PA with 3.7 percent, Molirena with 3.6 percent, and the PDC with 2.8 percent.

Regarding constitutional reforms, 52 percent of those polled believe that a plebiscite should be the determining factor, whereas 36 percent feel the reforms should be approved by two Legislative Assemblies.

Argentina

Menem, Alfonsin Sign Pact on Constitutional Changes

PA1511000993 Paris AFP in Spanish 2326 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Nov (AFP)—It has been officially announced that Argentine President Carlos Menem and former President Raul Alfonsin today signed a "Democratic Pact" to allow the legislature to make changes to the Constitution. The pact was signed by Menem for the Justicialist Party and by Alfonsin for the Radical Civic Union during a meeting at Olivos, the presidential residence, which is located 15 km north of Buenos Aires.

Even though an official announcement has not been made, according to an official spokesperson, the plebiscite scheduled by the government for 21 November will be cancelled.

Report Outlines Agreement

PA1511012993 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0029 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Nov (EFE)—Argentine President Carlos Menem and Raul Alfonsin, president of the Radical Civic Union (UCR), the leading opposition party, today signed an agreement whereby they will promote a bill to reform the Constitution.

The initiative, which does not alter the declarations of rights and guarantees, reduces the mandates of the president and vice president from six to four years and establishes that a president can be reelected for one term.

It also considers Menem's current presidential mandate as a "first term," which is consistent with the president's plan to present his candidacy for the 1995 general elections.

Menem and former President Alfonsin, who met today at the presidential residence in Buenos Aires' Olivos neighborhood, disclosed their intention to consolidate the democratic system and perfect the balance between the branches of state.

To this end they agreed to tone down the presidentialist system by including in the government a chief of cabinet or coordinating minister who would be answerable to the president and Congress.

The agreement establishes that "consistent with the constitutional principle of freedom of religion," the requirement that prevents non-Catholics from being president will be eliminated.

The agreement proposes a direct election through the two-round system ("ballotage") for the presidency and vice presidency and the direct election of the mayor of Buenos Aires, who previously was appointed by the president.

It also promotes the extension of ordinary congressional sessions; the reduction of senators' mandates, which are nine years; and regulation of the president's authority to issue laws of "necessity and urgency."

The document contains explicit references to the adoption of measures to guarantee the independence of justice and to strengthen its control organizations.

The government has officially suspended the constitutional plebiscite scheduled for 21 November, according to a report to the news media by Pedro Molina, head of the group of Peronist senators.

The summons to a popular consultation will depend on the decision reached on today's agreement by the national UCR convention at its 3 December meeting.

'Text' of Agreement

PA1511031493 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0209 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 14 Nov (NOTIMEX)—The government and the main political opposition party in Argentina today reached an agreement on the bases for a constitutional reform that will allow President Carlos Menem's reelection in 1995. [passage omitted]

The complete text of the agreement is as follows:

"President Carlos Menem and Raul Alfonsin, president of the Radical Civic Union, have agreed to promote a project for the reform of the Constitution, without introducing changes to the declaration, rights, and guarantees established in the first part of the Constitution that:

"Consolidates the democratic system and perfects the balance and the power of the State through:

"The appointment of a cabinet chief or coordinating minister answerable to the president and the congress.

"The reduction of the presidential and vice presidential mandate to four years with immediate reelection for one period only, considering the current presidential mandate as the first period.

"Consistent with the constitutional principle of freedom of religion, going to confession will no longer be a requirement to be president of the country.

"The direct election of three senators, two by the majority and one by the minority, and the reduction in the mandates of those who are elected.

"The direct election through the run-off system (ballotage) for the presidency and vice presidency.

"The direct election of the mayor of the capital city.

"Extending the ordinary congressional sessions.

"Regulation of the president's authority to issue laws of necessity and urgency.

"Reaffirming that federal intervention falls under the jurisdiction of the National Congress.

"Strengthening the independence of justice and its control organizations so:

"The manner in which the judges are appointed will be modified substantially and that suitability to fill a position will prevail above any other selection criteria.

"Establish a procedure for the removal of judges free of party or political contingencies.

"To grant the organization of control of the administration full functional autonomy within the legislative branch and periodic stability to its members, giving the presidency of said organization to the opposition.

"Reorganization of the federal regime to favor economic progress and development of provinces and regions."

Radical Civil Union on Pact

PA1511002393 Paris AFP in Spanish 2347 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Nov (AFP)—Former President Raul Alfonsin has promised to work "with loyalty and patriotism" and abide by the document signed today with Argentine President Carlos Menem, which is aimed at smoothing the path for constitutional reforms.

Upon leaving the presidential residence, the new leader of the Radical Civic Union said he was "very pleased with the results of his meeting" with Menem. "It was a very good meeting. I am very pleased. An important stage for the country is beginning. I leave pleased," the former radical leader told the press. Nevertheless, Alfonsin did not disclose any of the points included in the agreement, limiting himself to saying that he will report on the meeting later when he holds a news conference at the party headquarters. Likewise, official sources have not disclosed the text of the agreement.

Negotiators for the government and the Radical Civic Union have said that the document will include, among other points, the elimination of indirect elections for president and vice president, presidential reelection for a four year period (it is currently six years), and the elections of a third senator for every district or province.

President Menem Decides To Suspend 21 November Plebiscite

PY1311184493 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1743 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Mar del Plata, 13 Nov (NA)—President Carlos Menem has suspended the plebiscite that was to be held on Sunday, 21 November, although he explained that it does not mean the plebiscite was lifted.

In a news conference the Argentine president said the "Sunday, 21 November, plebiscite has been suspended, but not lifted, because the key date is 3 December" because the Radical Civic Union will hold its national convention that day, and it will decide then on the position to be adopted concerning the constitutional reform.

To Suspend Officially on 15 Nov

PA1511005293 Paris AFP in Spanish 0005 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Nov (AFP)—Carlos Corach, legal and technical secretary of the presidency, today announced that on 15 November Argentine President Carlos Menem will sign a decree suspending the constitutional reforms plebiscite scheduled for 21 November. The suspension of the plebiscite was one of the conditions imposed by Raul Alfonsin, leader of the largest political opposition group, the Radical Civic Union, to support the reform establishing presidential reelection, one of Menem's most ardent wishes.

The reform must not only be approved by the Senate, where the ruling party has a majority of votes, but also by the Chamber of Deputies, where the Justicialist Party does not have enough deputies to approve it. Nevertheless, with the agreement reached between the ruling Justicialist Party and the opposition Radical Civic Union, the Chamber of Deputies will not discuss the draft of the reforms approved by the Senate (where the radical deputies voted against it), but the agreement drafted today by Menem and Alfonsin.

A high-ranking spokesperson for the Radical Civic Union said the agreement "will be voted on by the Chamber of Deputies," thus leading everyone to believe that the text will be discussed and approved before 10 December, the date on which the new members of Congress, elected on 3 October, are scheduled to take office.

The ruling party and the Radical Civic Union negotiators hope that it will be precisely on 10 December, the 10th anniversary of the reinstatement of democracy in the country, when the historic "Democratic Pact," which by then will have allowed reforms to the Constitution, becomes definite.

President Menem Interviewed by British TV

LD1211141693

[Editorial Report] London ITV Television Network in English at 1900 GMT on 11 November broadcasts, as part of its "Channel 4 News" program a 10-minute report by correspondent David Smith on the political situation in Argentina, which includes an exclusive interview with Argentine President Carlos Menem. The date of the interview is not given.

The report opens with shots of a demonstration by Argentine pensioners in Buenos Aires, and includes brief quotes by the pensioners complaining about Menem's

rule. The report then shows the presidential palace and the correspondent talking with President Menem in his office.

The president, who speaks throughout in Spanish with English subtitles, says: "We've turned the country around 180 degrees. Argentina was in ruins; now it's coming back to life and there's every prospect of growth, development, all in a climate of law and order. We've done all this."

Smith then says: "Your critics say that you're trying to make yourself president for life."

Menem responds: "No, this is not true. All I want is to make it possible to change to Constitution so that I can have four more years. And then we'll finish this job, which isn't easy, of progress and change."

The report continues with shots of the Quilmes brewery, and interviews with brewery representatives. The report shows the Argentine stock exchange, with interviews with some stockbrokers, cutting to shots of Argentine street life, and interviews with people in the street.

Smith then asks Senator Fernando De La Rue, opposition leader, whether he thinks President Menem wants to be president for life. De La Rue, speaking in English, says: "For a long time, for a long time. They say that he asked at the election for only one more term of four years, but that is a dangerous way, because it is not a democratic way to get opinion of the people about the person of the governor or about the president."

The report continues with shots of the correspondent outside the National Congress building, followed by more film of him talking with Menem in his office.

Smith asks: "Is it necessary in your view, for Britain any more to have a fortress on the Falklands?"

Menem answers: "It's a complete waste of money. There's no sense to it, no sense. Anyway, Britain's had hundreds of years of mobilizing armies abroad and Argentina can't match that. Look at the war in 1982. We have made our choice between war and peace, and it's a sign of peace that we can continue the war with diplomacy."

Smith then asks: "Are you prepared to give assurances and guarantees that as long as Carlos Menem is president there will be no military threat to the Falklands?"

Menem responds: "Please, there's no threat whatsoever to the Malvinas [Falklands]."

Smith asks: "Ultimately, what is it that you want in the Falklands?"

Menem replies: "To regain sovereignty. That's what all of Argentina wants. Yet sovereignty is what Britain wants to maintain. But we wish to regain sovereignty because, while the islands remain occupied, it's a matter of our honor and dignity. So we will fight for the islands, but, I repeat, through diplomacy."

Smith asks: "Does Carlos Menem dream of the day when he will be the first Argentine president to take control of the Falklands?"

Menem replies: "It's one of my great dreams. I see that as my Utopia. And many times, you know, dreams do become reality."

Smith continues: "Do you have a time in mind?"

Menem replies: "Politics is the art of the possible, and it's possible to fulfill my dream by the year 2000, and for Argentina to regain what really belongs to us."

The report concludes with further shots of Buenos Aires.

Argentine President Interviewed Prior to Visiting Tokyo

OW1111042993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0304 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Nov, KYODO—Argentine President Carlos Menem said Wednesday [10 November] he wants to serve until the turn of the century to complete Argentina's political and economic reform program.

"I want to complete economic reform by the year 2000. Therefore I ask the people to extend the president's term," Menem said in an interview with Japanese reporters ahead of a six-day official visit to Japan starting November 30.

Menem, who took office in July 1989, is barred by the Constitution from standing for reelection when his term expires in 1995, but a referendum on an amendment to the charter allowing a second presidential term is slated for 21 November.

The amendment has already been approved by the Senate, or upper house of parliament.

The 63-year-old president, who underwent emergency surgery to unblock a neck artery in mid-October, said, "I don't have problems with my health."

Menem said his government has successfully tackled political and free-market reforms, and stabilized the country's economy by reining in hyperinflation, which stood at 5,000 percent in 1989, and cutting the budget deficit.

Concerning his upcoming visit to Japan, Menem said he hopes for more Japanese investment and transfer of economic know-how to speed up Argentina's development.

During his visit Menem, who will come to Japan right after a trip to the Netherlands and Cyprus, is scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa. He will return home on 5 December.

Nation's GATT Proposal Outlined

PY1111013693 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1944 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Nov (NA)—Tomorrow Argentina will submit a "zero for zero" proposal at the Uruguay Round of GATT to eliminate protection and distortions in the area of oil seeds. Argentina also will make a forceful call to the parties to again sit at the negotiating table with the objective of successfully concluding the agreement.

The proposal will be submitted by Ambassador Juan Archibaldo Lanus, Argentine representative to the GATT, who will call for the continuation of negotiations beginning the first day of next week.

The Argentine call will be made only 35 days before the end of negotiations and when there is fear that the round on prices and customs tariffs will end in failure.

The Argentine ambassador urged everyone "not to waste time," which he considered "the most critical component" if we truly want to "successfully conclude the Uruguay Round."

The question posed by Lanus is a response to the barriers and disputes generated between the United States and the EEC over agricultural products trade. There also were mutual accusations among the parties over the responsibility for the round's possible failure.

To accelerate the pace, Lanus also proposed the establishment of amendments that are to be included in the final document, and to establish a deadline for the inclusion of any other amendment.

In his speech, the Argentine representative called on the negotiators to "organize this negotiation effectively and to let the historians worry about the task of identifying those responsible for the eventual failure."

"At this point, we all have some idea of who the participants are who insist on replacing their lack of political decision with crafty public relations campaigns in order to delay the presentation of constructive proposals to have access to markets and to delay the required solutions to pending problems within the framework of the rules," he said.

Archibaldo Lanus submitted the zero for zero proposal concerning oil seeds to the consideration of GATT representatives.

He said this "is not an informal proposal, but the only formal proposal submitted so far to the participants of the round to begin negotiations intended to improve access to the markets of this sector through the elimination and multilateral control of the mechanisms that currently restrict trade expansion."

Cordoba Province Not To Sign Fiscal Pact With Congress

PY1211231293 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 12 Nov 93 p 3

[From the "Business World" column]

[Text] (NA)—Cordoba Economy Minister Jorge Caminotti said yesterday that his province will not sign the fiscal pact and that if Congress passes it into law, Cordoba will only accept part of it. Caminotti insisted on calling the pact a political agreement and said that it would only by discussed by his province's legislative body after the national Congress had passed it into law.

Provincial Officials Discuss Trade Deficit With U.S.

PY1211231493 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 12 Nov 93 p 3

[Text] (NA)—In an attempt to deflate a ballooning trade deficit with the United States, Argentine officials met yesterday [11 October] to discuss a new export campaign.

Most of Argentina's provincial economy ministers gathered to hear the Foreign Ministry strategy for slashing the deficit in a presentation delivered by Argentine Ambassador to the U.S. Raul Granillo Ocampo and International Economic Relations Secretary Hector Gambarotta.

The officials emphasized their concern about the $1.73-million deficit Argentina accrued with the U.S. last year, noting that in the 1990-92 period exports fell by 17 percent.

Imports of U.S. goods skyrocketed 166 percent over the same three years, causing the deficit to explode.

To reverse the trend, economy ministers from 15 provinces, including Buenos Aires, Cordoba, Santa Fe, Rio Negro, Santa Cruz, Formosa and Mendoza, were encouraged "to export more and better products" to U.S. markets.

The Foreign Ministry would like "to have a strong exchange plan with the United States that we will present in mid-December," International Trade Relations Undersecretary Pablo Barone told reporters.

"There are great exports opportunities—a lot more than some businessmen think, because in general North America gives the impression of having a very difficult market to access. But we don't see it like that," Barone added.

The plan to beef-up exports to the U.S. takes into account possibilities for small and medium-sized companies. It was suggested that they begin manufacturing goods that are now being exported as raw materials, thereby increasing exports of value-added goods.

Fish, fruits and vegetables, concentrated juices, wine, processed foods, auto parts and building materials like marble, granite, ceramics and faucets are among the products showing possibilities for growth in exports, according to Argentine representatives in the U.S.

Cordoba Economy Minister Jorge Caminotti said that yesterday's meeting was proof that "the government is concerned about the trade balance" which hit $1.11 billion for the first seven months of the year, up 33 percent from the same period last year.

"The important thing is for the effort not to be made just to confront the present situation, but rather to provide long-term solutions to the problems faced by exporters," Caminotti added.

Former President Raul Alfonsin Elected UCR President

PY1311162093 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0624 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Nov (NA)—Former President Raul Alfonsin was tonight elected the new president of the Radical Civic Union [UCR], with the unanimous support of the 64 delegates who were present at the plenary session held at Parque Norte. This has opened the doors to a democratic pact between the government and the UCR to achieve the reform of the national Constitution.

Alfonsin will meet with President Carlos Menem on Sunday afternoon to consolidate the agreement, the definite guidelines of which have already been established by experts from the two parties.

The agreement to be achieved by the new UCR board must still be endorsed by the National Convention, which the new UCR president this morning scheduled for 3 December.

This democratic pact will also decide this coming week whether the government will cancel the plebiscite scheduled for 21 November.

The plenary session that elected Alfonsin was not attended by sectors led, among others, by Fernando de la Rua, Juan Manuel Casella, and Eduardo Angeloz, whose delegates decided not to attend their defeat.

The party's new board of directors was also outlined tonight, though leaving some places open to be offered to those defeated as a sign of party unity, which today experienced a crisis because of the "boycott" [preceding word in English] by the so-called Group for Consensus.

After having received an ovation after the election, Alfonsin read a message to those present, harshly criticizing the government economic policy but once again demonstrating a desire to hold talks to implement the democratic pact.

Brazil

Franco Plans Committee of 'Notables' To Probe Corruption

PY1311225193 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 12 Nov 93 p A6

[Article by Luiz Maklouf Carvalho]

[Excerpt] President Itamar Franco will send Congress a constitutional amendment proposing the formation of a committee of notables to speed up investigations into corruption cases—in a style resembling the trial courts system in Italy. This idea was presented to the president by Senator Jose Paulo Bisol (PSB-RS) [Brazilian Socialist Party-Rio Grande do Sul State]. Franco liked the proposal and ordered immediate legal studies in order to present this proposal during the constitutional reform process. The proposal's preliminary draft was delivered to Bisol on 11 November by presidential legal adviser Alexandre Martins Dupeyrat. Presidential spokesman Francisco Baker confirmed last night that "the president is taking" Bisol's "recommendations into account."

"Legal issues are being reviewed," Baker disclosed. Bisol advocated the formation of a committee of notables during a meeting on 9 November in which Senator Pedro Simon (PMDB-RS) [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party-Rio Grande do Sul State] also participated. Dupeyrat, who was invited by the president, also was present to voice his legal opinions.

"The president liked the proposal," Dupeyrat confirmed. "There is no doubt that the president is interested in creating mechanisms to speed up the repression of wrongdoings against public assets." According to the presidential legal adviser, Bisol's recommendation envisions "adapting the Italian trial courts system to our country's legal system." Dupeyrat prepared the preliminary draft that he delivered to Bisol at Franco's request. Dupeyrat noted: "I am waiting for him to review the preliminary draft and give me a response. The idea was raised by Sen. Bisol and the president would not like to present it as his own." According to the presidential adviser, the council, selected by the president of the Republic, would have to be approved by the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate. Dupeyrat noted: "There are legal problems, but there is no doubt that the issue falls under constitutional jurisdiction." [passage omitted]

Congress Approves Constitutional Reform Regulations

PY1211123493 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 11 Nov 93 p 3

[Text] Brasilia—The revisionist Congress yesterday approved the internal regulations for the constitutional reform. Lawmakers now expect reform work to begin before the end of the year. Without even having to reach an agreement with the lawmakers who were against the

reform, of the 313 congressmen who attended 307 voted for the regulations, four voted against it, and two abstained. The session began at 1500, and despite maneuvers to prevent the legal quorum—by those who were against the reform—the lawmakers in favor of it managed to guarantee that the vote took place.

Late in the afternoon, after approving the regulations, lawmakers began to debate the main issues, among these whether votes will be taken by each chamber or by joint congressional sessions. Because of the lack of a quorum voting on the main issues was postponed for today, but the trend is that voting by individual chambers should be maintained. The debates on the reform, which should last 25 days, will begin after publication of the regulations.

The PPR [Progressive Renewal Party] deputy for Sao Paulo, Delfim Netto, said: "A new time will begin with the reform. The government is showing signs that it is alive."

In the absence of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] deputy for Rio Grande do Sul, Ibsen Pinheiro, who wrote the regulations bill but resigned on Tuesday, antireformist lawmakers tried to impede the voting on the grounds that Paraiba Deputy Jose Luis Clerot—who was Pinheiro's replacement—was not empowered to propose the bill. The Communist Party of Brazil deputy for Bahia, Haroldo Lima, was among those who demanded that Clerot state at the plenary session whether he knew the regulations bill.

Under the terms of the approved regulations, lawmakers and parties—through their leaders—may submit reform proposals during the first 15 days of the debates. Popular amendments will be also admitted, provided they are endorsed by 15,000 or more voters in lists organized by at least three institutions with legal status. All constitutional amendment proposals under consideration by the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, which are awaiting debate on merit, will be transformed into reform proposals.

Government Leader Says Franco To Eliminate Two Ministries

PY1311021393 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Pedro Simon, government leader in the Senate, reported that President Itamar Franco will carry out a ministerial reform in December. He explained that the Social Welfare Ministry and the Regional Development Ministry will be eliminated.

According to Simon, this measure has no relation whatsoever to the ministers who head both ministries. It has been prompted rather by the constant tampering with budget allocations, which occurred mainly in those two ministries.

Government To Submit Fiscal Reform to Congress 'This Month'

PY1311133293 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] The government will submit measures to guarantee a fiscal balance in 1994 to Congress this month.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Patricia Gomes, from Brasilia] Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso has stated that there will no surprises in the measures to be announced to combat inflation. He once again ruled out the establishment of an exchange rate anchor to put an end to the index-linked economy. He further stated that by the end of the month he will have submitted to Congress the amended 1994 budget, including the fiscal reform. He added that the government will voice its stance on how to control spending, and if it is rejected Congress will have to shoulder the responsibility of not implementing the adjustment. Cardoso went on to say that the measures will respect market rules.

[Cardoso] You may rest assured that—contrary to reports that have been bandied about that we are going to do this or do that, which are not true—we are not seeking to surprise anybody with the measures we are to put into effect. We have entire control of the situation. I insist that public finances are under control; everything is under control. Hence we are in a position to implement...

[Gomes] An increase in tax collection and cutbacks in the 1994 budget are among the most salient measures to be announced by the economic team to balance the budget by reducing the public deficit estimated in $26 billion. And yet the alternative of promoting these changes through a constitutional revision has been already ruled out by Deputy Nelson Jobim [PMDB-RS] [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party-Rio Grande do Sul], who met with the finance minister today to tell him that the constitutional revision will in practice be passed next year. [end recording]

Poll Examines Public Preferences

PY1211142593 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 11 Nov 93 p 3

[Text] According to polls released yesterday by IBOPE [Brazilian Public Opinion and Statistics Institute], Brazilians want to eliminate the monopolies on telecommunications and petroleum. The majority—55 percent—of the 2,000 people interviewed claim that private companies must also participate in the telecommunications systems, while 52 percent approve of an end to the petroleum monopoly. Moreover, 50 percent of those interviewed are in favor of an "economic package now," as opposed to the 34 percent of those interviewed who believe in the possibility of fighting inflation without strong measures; 16 percent declined to respond.

Defense of an economic package reaches 59 percent in the northern region, 55 percent in the south, and 52

percent in the northeast, but was rejected by 46 percent in the southeast. More than half, 70 percent, of those interviewed support an end to the compulsory vote, an idea which to which only 25 percent of those interviewed were opposed. According to the polls, 49 percent approved of an end to job security among public employees, while 38 percent defended it.

The idea of eliminating labor benefits such as the Severance Pay Fund [FGTS], and an additional one-third of salaries during vacation periods, was rejected by 73 percent of those interviewed. Only 16 percent support an end of those benefits. Moreover, as opposed to the 38 percent who agreed with the change, 53 percent of those interviewed are against retirement by age—at approximately 60 years of age—instead of the idea of time of service.

According to 51 percent of those interviewed, mayors, governors, and presidents should have the right to reelection, while 38 percent reject this idea. According to 47 percent of Brazilians the number of deputies in Congress should be proportional to the population of each state, but 35 percent disagree with the idea of changing the system of representativity, which has great support in the south: 53 percent. The idea that services should be the responsibility of the states and municipalities was supported by 58 percent, while 22 percent reject it.

According to the same polls, Brazilians are divided concerning the effects of the constitutional revision. According to 18 percent of those interviewed it will only damage the country. However, 10 percent feel that it will only bring benefits. Meanwhile, 23 percent believe that it will bring more advantages than disadvantages. But 16 percent think exactly the opposite. The number of undecided is even larger: 28 percent.

Majority Compares Budget Scandal to PC Scandal

According to 41 percent of the Brazilians interviewed by IBOPE, the corruption charges in Congress are as serious as those that caused the fall of former President Fernando Collor. But 21 percent went even further: They believe that they are the most serious the country has experienced during the past governments, against 23 percent who consider the scandal serious but not as serious as that of the Casa da Dinda [Collor's residence].

According to the polls, Brazilians are not too optimistic about the result of the CPI [Congressional Investigating Committee] dealing with the budget mafia: 34 percent feel that some congressmen will be prosecuted and punished, while 28 percent feel that nothing will be proven and everyone will remain unpunished. A less pessimistic 23 percent feel that those responsible will not escape trial.

Comparing the current days to those of military governments and to the government of Jose Sarney, 52 percent of those interviewed feel that corruption was less then than it is now. For 32 percent, corruption "was greater or equal, but the press did not reveal it."

According to 41 percent, most corruption charges in the budget are true. They are absolutely true for 33 percent, and totally false for 3 percent. Only 7 percent feel that part of the accusations are false, while 15 percent did not know what to say. The denunciations by Jose Carlos Alves dos Santos have reached the ears of 68 percent of those interviewed. However, 31 percent claim to be unaware of the corruption charges in Congress.

Politicians and Businessmen Are Down

The credibility of Congress is low, according to the IBOPE polls: 60 percent of those interviewed claim they have no confidence in Congress. Only 32 percent believe in the institution. That is the largest rate of distrust to date since April 1991, when 54 percent of Brazilians believed in Congress. Confidence in political parties is even lower, only 19 percent, while 82 percent of those interviewed said they do not trust the politicians, who can count on the confidence of only 15 percent of those interviewed.

Businessmen are also untrustworthy for 65 percent of the polled people. Only 28 percent trust in them. The communications media and the Catholic Church, however, are trustworthy for the people. Confidence in the Catholic Church surpasses 77 percent—a figure obtained today—since November 1989 [as published], while 62 percent of those interviewed claim to have confidence in the press.

People Do Not Trust Congress

Of the 2,000 Brazilians surveyed by Ibope between 29 October and 3 November, 67 percent are of the opinion that the ideal president is one who rules with a firm hand all by himself, without interference from Congress. Only 24 percent of those polled disagree with this description of the president used by pollsters. More than half of those surveyed—57 percent—agree that the "congress that removed Fernando Collor from office is as corrupt as the former president," while 27 percent disagree with this statement.

Paradoxically, the public opinion survey showed that 62 percent of people believe it is unfair to contend that all congressmen are corrupt, whereas 25 percent do not think this is at all unfair. Moreover, 54 percent of those surveyed believe that the work undertaken by deputies and senators is "essential for the working of democracy"; 26 percent think the contrary.

The poll revealed that 56 percent of people deem that impunity is the main cause underlying corruption in politics. They believe that "there are corrupt politicians because the Brazilian judiciary does not punish anybody." The contention that impunity is due to the fact that the majority of voters does not know how to vote was supported by 41 percent of those polled, whereas 30 percent of people believe that there is corruption because "businessmen only seek to make profits at the expense of public money."

According to 29 percent of those polled the "majority of Brazilians would act in the same way politicians do if they were given the opportunity to make money without being punished." The survey showed that 25 percent of people believe that bureaucracy breeds corruption, because it obliges businessmen to bribe people in order to get what they want. In the eyes of 25 percent of people, there are corrupt politicians because it is "impossible to win an election without participating in a corruption scheme."

Possible Amendments to the Constitution

Amendments	Approves	Disapproves	Does Not Know
No mandatory vote:	70 percent	25 percent	5 percent
Transfer of public utility services to state and municipal governments:	58 percent	22 percent	20 percent
End to communications monopoly:	55 percent	24 percent	21 percent
End to oil monopoly:	52 percent	23 percent	25 percent
Reelection of mayors, governors, president:	51 percent	38 percent	11 percent
End of job security for civil service:	49 percent	38 percent	13 percent
Proportional representation in Congress:	47 percent	35 percent	18 percent
End to seniority retirement:	39 percent	53 percent	8 percent
Elimination of employers' obligations such as FGTS, vacation bonus:	16 percent	73 percent	11 percent

Public Opinion on Corruption

Results of the CPI	
Only some congressmen will be punished:	34 percent
Nothing will be proved and nobody will be punished:	28 percent
Congressmen, government officials, businessmen will be punished:	23 percent
Does not know or declines to give opinion:	15 percent
Seriousness of Charges	
As serious as those against Collor:	41 percent Not as serious as those against Collor:
23 percent Most serious in the last few administrations:	21 percent Does not know or declines to give opinion:
15 percent	

Attitudes Toward Congress

	Yes	No	No Opinion
Country needs strong president ruling without interference from Congress:	67 percent	24 percent	9 percent
To contend that all congressmen are corrupt is unfair to those who are honest and upright:	62 percent	25 percent	13 percent
Brazilian politics are more corrupt than other countries:	58 percent	21 percent	21 percent
Congress that removed Collor is as corrupt as he is:	57 percent	27 percent	17 percent
ork of deputies, senators is essential for democracy:	54 percent	26 percent	20 percent

Chile

General Pinochet Praises President Patricio Aylwin

PY1211205293 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1556 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Santiago, 12 Nov (AFP-NA)—Chilean President Patricio Aylwin is "a very serious man who acts conscientiously and who tries to be just," General Augusto Pinochet, former head of the past military regime, said in Brazil. These remarks were made to the newspaper EL MERCURIO that will be published on 12 November.

Pinochet, who headed a military dictatorship for almost 17 years until he handed over power in 1990 to civilian President Patricio Aylwin (elected through the ballot box), participated in Brasilia in the 20th Conference of American Armies, in his role as head of the Chilean Armed Forces.

"I have noticed that all armies are in a process of changes, but without reducing personnel, because war

always appears suddenly," the general said, referring to the issue of military reorganizations in the continent discussed at the conference.

"In Chile we are doing it step by step," Pinochet said. During the conference he defended the idea that modern armies must be made up of a regular "very professional" contingent.

The former president also defended at the conference the participation of the armed forces in political activities, "because we have very well-prepared people who can be used," he told the newspaper.

Now, "whether the government wants to do it or not, that is another story," he told EL MERCURIO.

Pinochet also mentioned the conference's concern over drug trafficking and terrorism, and warned about the latter, that many who believed that subversives have been pacified "have been surprised by the fact that they are not that much."

Returns From Brasilia

PY1411013393 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Army Commander General Augusto Pinochet did not talk to reporters after returning from Brasilia today. General Pinochet arrived at Pudahuel International Airport at about 1800.

Reporters were waiting for him hoping to get his comments on the sentencing of his former aides, General Manuel Contreras and Brigadier Pedro Espinoza, who is still on active duty. Gen. Pinochet, who participated in the Conference of American Armies in Brasilia, only waved to reporters and then left the airport.

Finance Minister on Formation of Latin American Trade Bloc

PY1411020893 Santiago ESTRATEGIA in Spanish 4 Nov 93 p 8

[Text] During the "Citizens Network Conference" [preceding three words in English], sponsored by the Japanese Institute for Investments and the Council of the Americas, Finance Minister Alejandro Foxley said in Washington that he trusts that Chile, like Mexico and Papua New Guinea, will be admitted as a full-fledged "Asia Pacific Economic Corporation" [preceding four words in English] (APEC) member in mid-November.

Foxley pointed out that our country meets the requirements to be considered a first-class partner. As an example, he indicated that Chilean exports to APEC countries between 1980 and 1992 grew from $1.5 billion per year to $5.1 billion per year, which represents 50 percent of total Chilean exports. Seventy percent of these sales go to the U.S. and Japanese markets. Also, our imports from APEC countries grew between 1980 and 1992 from $2.6 billion to $4.2 billion, 50 percent of which was collected by the United States.

Another argument raised by Foxley on the aforementioned occasion was that the bulk of foreign investments in Chile mainly involves the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan, all of which are APEC members that trust in the business opportunities our country presents.

Foxley pointed out that the possibility that NAFTA and the Uruguay Round will fail is viewed with astonishment by the Latin American countries that have made an effort to establish open economies with clear rules and sound competition. Foxley noted, however, that, if this possibility prevails, Latin America "has the ability to create a political power capable of strengthening the proposals that Latin America would champion in this would-be scenario of emerging trade blocs."

Foxley pointed out that if the industrialized countries organize themselves to impose managed trade, our region would not have many alternatives. In this case, he noted, the Rio Group might act as a catalyst for a political alliance that would strengthen the negotiating power of a Latin American bloc that is testing forms of successful economic integration like the bilateral free-trade agreements Chile has signed with Mexico and Venezuela or associations like Mercosur [Common Market of the South].

Alejandro Foxley made these remarks during a strong debate on free trade and the approval of NAFTA, involving the stagnation of negotiations in Geneva on the Uruguay Round of GATT talks.

Polling Firm Compares Approval Ratings for Aylwin, Pinochet

PY1211123193 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 2200 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] According to polls by CEP-Adimark [Political Studies Center-Adimark], Senator Eduardo Frei, presidential candidate for the coalition of political parties, is the sure winner of the forthcoming elections, with 61.6 percent of the votes. The polls also reveal a degree of acceptance of the current government of President Patricio Aylwin, which is greater than 50 percent.

According to the polls the areas of the current government gaining the most approval are international relations, the handling of the economy, and relations with the Armed Forces. Those with the least approval are the areas of delinquency, terrorism, and health.

CEP-Adimark also presented a comparative study of evaluations of the previous military regime, made in June 1988, and appraisals of several areas of President Aylwin's government made in November of this year. CEP-Adimark Chairman Roberto Mendes explained this in this manner:

[Begin Mendes recording] In the area of economic growth the government of President Patricio Aylwin receives an overwhelmingly better evaluation than did the government of General Pinochet. Some 52 percent approve of the Aylwin government, as opposed to the 37 percent that approved the government of Pinochet in 1988.

In the area of house construction the polls were favorable to Pinochet, with 60 percent of the people evaluating as good his administration in 1988 for this area; 49 percent feel that the administration in 1993 is good.

The maintenance of public order was slightly better for Pinochet, with 48 percent, while 45.8 percent approved of Aylwin's performance. Concerning respect for human rights the polls were overwhelmingly favorable for President Aylwin's government, with 44 percent as opposed to 23 percent for Pinochet's government. [end recording]

The government of President Aylwin was also evaluated as having performed better than the military regime in the reduction of layoffs and inflation, but Pinochet's regime received a better approval rating in the areas of improving education and health. Concerning assistance to the poor, 38 percent considered the military government's work good, while 21.6 percent think the same concerning the achievements of the democratic government.

Concerning the primary concerns of the people, delinquency, which was the first in previous polls, has now been replaced by terrorism and health care, probably due to recent events in the country, the Adimark chairman said.

Polls Note Indifference to Elections

PY1211210293 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1709 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Santiago, 12 Nov (EFE)—According to polls released on 12 November, a month before the presidential and congressional elections scheduled for 11 December, 26.4 percent of Chileans are indifferent to politics, 20.1 percent are bored, and 18.5 percent are not inspired by politics.

The polls by the Center for Contemporary Reality Studies (CERC) also show that 47.3 percent of those interviewed feel "a little satisfied" with the development of democracy, while 12.4 percent are "not at all satisfied," 31 percent are "satisfied," and only 6.3 percent are "very satisfied."

According to CERC Director Marta Lagos, this is because 79.3 percent of the those interviewed believe democracy has not been fully consolidated in Chile and only 16 percent feel that it has.

Along that same line, political parties are the institutions evaluated as the worst by the people, with a grade of 3.6 percent on a scale of one to seven. The congressmen elected in 1989 also have disappointed because 47 percent of those interviewed feel they have not fulfilled what they promised.

Concerning the current electoral campaign, 52.4 percent stated that they are not attracted and 21.8 percent said they have no interest whatsoever.

However, and ratifying the historic Chilean tendency to participate in elections, 87.5 percent stated that they will "surely" vote in the 11 December elections and only 3.4 percent said "perhaps not."

Poll Predicts Frei Victory in First Round of Elections

PY1311121493 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] A new political survey, this time conducted by the Center for Contemporary Reality Studies, CERC, has confirmed that Eduardo Frei will surely win the presidential elections in the first round of voting. CERC Director Marta Lagos said that 30 days before the elections it would be practically impossible to reverse this trend.

The CERC polls, encompassing 29 cities from Arica to Puerto Montt, represent 63 percent of the overall voters. Concerning the degree of approval of the current government, after four years of administration, almost 70 percent of the public approved of it.

Concerning Congress, it was asked who was the best senator. The senators voted for most were Gabriel Valdez, Andres Zaldivar, and Sergio Onofre Jarpa. As far as the best deputy was concerned, the list is as follows: Jorge Schaulsohn, Jose Antonio Viera-Gallo, and Alberto Espina.

The overwhelming majority of the public answered that they would participate in the elections. Concerning the presidential elections, Eduardo Frei remains first on the list with 52.6 percent of the votes. Arturo Alessandri received 16.3 percent of the votes. Further behind on the list were Manfred Max Neef, Eugenio Pizarro, and Jose Pinera. The last on the list was Christian Reitze.

Those interviewed who did not mention any candidate, who claimed to be unaware, or who simply declined to respond totalled 24.2 percent of overall voters. The CERC concluded by saying that these people would probably in the end vote for Alessandri. The figures would thus change, with Frei receiving 53 percent of the votes, while Alessandri would obtain 28 percent. The others would receive only a slight increase.

CERC then, however, takes into account the null and blank votes. Should the elections be held next Sunday, the results would thus be as follows: Frei would win with 58.9 percent; Alessandri would receive 31.1 percent; Max Neef 3.9 percent; Pizarro 3.3 percent; Pinera 2.2 percent; and Reitze 0.5 percent.

According to CERC these results confirm that the lots have been cast.

[Begin Marta Lagos recording] If there is a second round of voting, then we can say that the polls are good for nothing. [end recording]

Colombia

ELN Promises To Keep Up 'Offensive' Against Legislators

PA1411211293 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1901 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 14 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Colombian guerrillas today announced they will keep up their offensive against senators who vote to make permanent the emergency decrees issued by the executive branch under the State of Internal Disturbance.

In a communique, the rebel Army of National Liberation (ELN) for the third time claimed responsibility for the attack that led to the death of Congress Vice President Dario London and confirmed its decision not to hold a dialogue with the current government. Londono was killed by an armed group on 5 November as he left the University of Medellin. He had participated in drafting the public order law that includes most of the measures adopted by President Cesar Gaviria to fight the guerrillas and drug trafficking both militarily and financially.

In the communique, the ELN said the killing of the 45-year-old senator is "an act of revolutionary justice and of popular dignity against the official sponsor" of the bill, which must be approved by Congress before the end of the year.

By virtue of the powers granted by the State of Internal Disturbance, which expired two weeks ago, the Executive Branch prohibited the broadcast of interviews with the leaders of the guerrillas and the mafia, granted judicial powers to the military sector, and increased the nation's security budget.

In the communique, which was released during a forum in the petroleum port of Barrancabermeja, the ELN, which has approximately 4,000 fighters, said it will continue its offensive against congressmen who vote in favor of the permanence of those measures.

The controversial public order law will continue to be discussed in the Colombian Congress this week after the Gaviria administration called for its urgent approval.

[Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish at 1800 GMT on 14 November reports that "according to Senator Samuel Moreno Rojas, many of his colleagues are going to Congress with weapons because they are afraid of possible attacks." The station adds that the senator reported that anonymous threats continue to reach his office stating that "legislators will continue to be killed, that this is not a mere threat but that it will be done, and that the legislators are going to be killed just as Dario Londono had been murdered."

AD M-19 Presidential Candidate Requests More Protection

PA1411040693 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 9 Nov 93 p 3A

[Text] Democratic Alliance/M-19 [AD/M-19] presidential candidate Antonio Navarro Wolff yesterday asked the government to provide him with more protection after reporting that he was threatened. Navarro said the situation is practically the same as that which prevailed in 1990, when presidential candidates had to outline their platforms on television because of the threats against them.

Navarro, who yesterday presided over a meeting with AD/M-19 leaders at Cali's council, said that "my office has received threatening calls, not many, but at least a dozen, which shows that tension has increased."

He added that those who believe Pablo Escobar is the only one behind the violence in Colombia are very wrong. He said the drug trafficker "is blamed for all the bad things that happen in the country."

The death of [Senator] Dario Londono has raised the number of deaths of political leaders murdered in Antioquia within the last two years to 250. Many of these crimes are the work of drug traffickers, common criminals, guerrilla groups, and corrupt individuals.

Liberal Congressman Alberto Foronda Pimiento was killed by gunmen on 30 October 1992 as he left the Popular Liberal Directorate Board's headquarters. Francisco Buelvas, political activist of the Communist Party of Colombia in Uraba, was killed on 1 September 1993 in Turbo municipality. Hoober Quintero Roman, former alderman and secretary of the Communist Party of Colombia's local committee, was killed on 24 August 1993 in the same area. Jaime Enrique Duque Perez, former Supreme Court of Justice president and university professor, was killed on 22 June 1992 because he refused to pay extortion money to the guerrillas. Former Health Minister Amaury Garcia Burgos was killed on 5 March 1993 in Cordoba. Alberto Diaz Munoz, liberal deputy, lawyer, and Medellin University professor, was also slain by a gunman as he left a political meeting in Bello.

Discusses Security

PA1411194693 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 Nov 93

[From the "National" newscast]

[Text] Campaign security must be heightened over the weekends, because this is when the candidates tour the country. Antonio Navarro Wolff, presidential candidate

of the 19 April Movement Democratic Alliance [AD/M-19], is visiting Cucuta. Let us see how security is faring there.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Manuel Humberto Neira] Navarro Wolff, who was visiting Venezuela, entered the country across the Puerto Santander border. The Colombian authorities there suggested that he cancel his visit to some areas of Norte de Santander Department that they considered risky. Approximately 180 men have been assigned to his visit to this department. Nevertheless, the candidate believes that there are never enough bodyguards when an attack occurs.

[Navarro] There is no such thing as an absolute guarantee, especially in terms of security matters. Therefore, let us hope nothing will happen. There are always unforeseen aspects in security.

[Neira] Navarro Wolff said that if the security situation worsens, candidates would again have to carry out their campaigns solely through the media as was done in 1990. [end recording]

Ecuador

German President Says Results of Visit 'Satisfactory'

PA1311135893 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2329 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Quito, 10 Nov (NOTIMEX)—German President Richard von Weizsacker said today the results of his visit to Ecuador were satisfactory. He signed several cooperation agreements.

Before returning to his country this afternoon, von Weizsacker reiterated Germany's commitment to supporting, before the EEC, the Latin American countries' efforts demanding the elimination of the restrictions on their banana exports.

The German president, who concluded a five-day visit to Ecuador, was bid farewell in a protocol ceremony headed by his Ecuadoran colleague, Sixto Duran-Ballen, at the Mariscal Sucre Air Base in Quito.

Duran-Ballen said the relations between the two nations are "excellent," but that they will be undoubtedly strengthened by the cooperation agreements signed during von Weizsacker's visit.

Both presidents agreed to intensify the efforts for liberalizing international trade and supporting the GATT negotiations.

They agreed that a positive completion of the negotiations over the next months will cause a strengthening of the world economy and will open new opportunities for the economies of the developing countries to grow.

Ecuador stated its appreciation for the German position, which challenged, at the European Justice Tribunal, the Community's new regulations, which restrict, with quotas and tariffs, the entry of bananas from Latin America.

Quito also obtained a formal proposal from President von Weizsacker for the reconversion of the foreign debt Ecuador has with Germany, which amounts to over $250 million.

The governments of both countries agreed to unite to intensify the political dialogue between the Rio Group and the EEC "in equality and with concrete objectives."

They also made a commitment to "defend and consolidate representative democracy and the criteria that respect for human rights is essential for guaranteeing peace and bolstering international integration and cooperation."

The German president arrived in the Ecuadoran capital on 6 November after leaving Chile.

Defense Ministry Announces Calm Among Units at Borders

PA1311195093 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Nov 93

[From "The Voz Andes" newscast]

[Text] The National Defense Ministry has announced that there is total calm and normalcy among the military units stationed along the Peruvian and Colombian borders. The ministry has said that over the past few days routine training exercises were conducted in Pastasa Province. These exercises, the ministry said, are totally normal activities that are executed periodically in various parts of Ecuador.

[Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish at 0019 GMT on 13 November transmits a 175-word report that Ecuadoran Defense Minister Jose Gallardo confirmed during a news conference on 12 November in Guayaquil that Ecuador will continue to demand access to the Amazon River, as President Sixto Duran-Ballen has stated at various international forums. Gallardo said that the Army supports the government's position on what he described as "a very legitimate national goal." Gallardo also denied press reports regarding a possible incident between Ecuadoran and Peruvian military patrols stationed at the border.]

Peru

Army Said in State of Alert During Coup Attempt Anniversary

PA1311144693 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0738 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Lima, 13 Nov (EFE)—The Peruvian Army is on "alert" today, the first anniversary of the foiled

November 1992 coup which sought to oust Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori, according to the opposition weekly CARETAS.

The weekly states that the Army recently decided to "restrict all of its units to their quarters," particularly "operation units such as the Armored Division, and the Special Forces Division (commandos), headquartered in Lima.

CARETAS says the Army's information units have "doubled" their surveillance "in all of the military areas to remain alert to any suspicious movements," adding that "ransoms have been offered for those who provide some type of information in this regard."

The Army commanders' alleged concern is attributed by the opposition magazine to the "solidarity" which, it claims, is provoked among the corps by the situation of nine military officers involved in the coup: imprisonment at the "Real Felipe" barracks in Lima, including coup leader General Jaime Salinas Sedo.

The imprisoned military officers are serving sentences ranging from three to nine years after being found guilty of attempting to oust and assassinate Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori. [passage omitted]

CARETAS says another event "that has caused great displeasure" within the Army is the alleged existence of a plan prepared by the information systems which is aimed at preventing, next year, the promotion of military officers suspected of sympathizing with the 13 November coup.

The opposition weekly asserts that a fierce struggle has also arisen among high-ranking Army commanders to succeed General Nicolas de Bari Hermoza, who will apparently leave his post in December, although it is possible that Fujimori will keep him in the post as he did in 1991, when Hermoza should have retired due to the age limit.

Although CARETAS and the political opposition state that Hermoza is a discordant factor within the Armed Forces, there are people who state that his leadership is firm. Under his leadership the Army has tipped the scales in its favor concerning the struggle against terrorism, and it has virtually defeated the Maoist Shining Path group. [passage omitted]

Fujimori's 'Deflated' Expectations in Plebiscite Analyzed

PY1111183293 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 2 Nov 93 p A2

[Commentary by Manuel D'Ornellas: "Not So Much, Not So Little"]

[Text] Political achievements or failures are normally evaluated in proportion to the expectations they have created, and not necessarily by comparing statistics. The ruling party believed that 60 percent of Peruvians would vote "yes" in the plebiscite, while President Fujimori even fantasized that the number of people voting "yes" would reach 70 percent. In the end, however, the result was a tight 53 percent, as was mentioned by EXPRESO's owner yesterday.

It doesn't matter that the number of people who voted "yes" is only 3- percent lower than the 56 percent of votes Fujimori received in the second round of the 1990 presidential elections, particularly as this signifies a great victory after three years in office. The government officials' high expectations were deflated by the ballot box results, and now the opposition members are among the happiest Peruvians.

Apparently, an electoral space is being opened to the opposition. Their chances had been decreasing since the 1989 municipal elections, when the traditional or classic parties—just to give them a name—became politically irrelevant. The 47 percent of the votes the opposition received in the plebiscite, however, make up for so many years of misfortunes, and remind us that everything in politics is pendular, or cyclic. Corsi e ricorsi [previous three words in Italian].

On 31 October the Peruvian people decided to impose with their vote the old native aphorism "not so much, not so little." The people granted the government a tight victory so that we can thus have institutional stability through a new constitution, but they also told the chief of state that he does not have the people's unlimited approval. The percentage that President Fujimori wanted so much would have been a blank check, but the people refused to give it to him; the 53 percent result shows that the majority of the people support the current administration's performance, but it also means that they will keep the reins short.

It remains to be seen whether—within the institutional and economic framework of the new (and improved in this sense) constitution—Fujimori will in the next two years consolidate the progress made since 1990, shifting gradually from stability to takeoff. If he manages to do so, his reelection in 1995 will become a realistic and viable option. After all, a thrilled [Argentine President Carlos] Menem has just called a plebiscite in Argentina to settle, on 21 November, the issue of the constitutional reform, which would enable him to run for the presidency a second time, and he is only backed by the 43 percent of the vote he obtained in the last parliamentary elections. Ten percent less than Fujimori, and he is so happy...

In any case, nothing proved better than these past elections for improving Peru's image abroad. They proved, for all the world to see, that the country is not run by a dictatorship that rigs the elections or manipulates consciences, but that this is a free nation where citizens vote as they please—as the ups and downs in the departments clearly demonstrate—and voice their opinions with no constraints. Moreover, the citizens' votes are respected and obeyed by everybody, including the

executive branch, as was the case in the two previous constituent and municipal elections. Let us hope, then, that people will once and for all stop pontificating to us about a return to democracy!

New Law on Banking, Financial, Institutions Detailed

PY1111212993 Lima EL PERUANO (Legal Supplement) in Spanish 3 Nov 93 p B10

[Text] Hernan Figueroa Bustamante has reported that the new General Law on Banking, Financial, and Insurance Institutions, enacted through Legislative Decree No. 769, includes important changes that will enable the development of a sound, trustworthy, and competitive system for financial intermediaries and greater choice in operations.

He added that thanks to the new law, major decisions that have a bearing on the financial system, like interest rates, policies on legal reserves, and credit ceilings, will be of mixed nature. In this way, financial intermediaries will be able to make these decisions according to market rules while the Central Reserve Bank [BCR] will continue establishing certain regulatory criteria.

"This law evinces the intention of there being a greater fluidity in intermediary activities so that banks may have greater freedom in fixing interest rates, in establishing countervailing moratorium interests pursuant to their by-laws, and the BCR may establish interest rate ceilings and floors. Major decisions will thus lie with the market and financial intermediaries themselves," he noted.

Among the most salient changes to be effected by the new law by virtue of DL [Legislative Decree] No. 769, Figueroa Bustamante pointed out that new institutions will be established within the financial system, like companies that grant credit for buying consumer goods and investment trusts.

He noted that another fundamental thing that has been included in the aforementioned law is the establishment of new minimum capital requirements for banks (11 million new soles), financial houses (5 million new soles), and insurance companies (7 million new soles). Concerning this latter point, Figueroa Bustamante remarked that capital is the gauge of a financial intermediary's creditworthiness.

He further stated that with regard to active and passive interest rates, it is worth noting that banks and financial houses themselves will be in charge of fixing them.

"Moreover, it is important to underscore that bank confidentiality will not be implemented across the board but rather it will only be applicable to customers' passive operations concerning deposits. We deem that this provision is more comprehensive than what had been established in DL No. 637," he added.

Uruguay

Foreign Minister Abreu Condemns Violation of Haiti Accords

PY1211122893 Montevideo LA MANANA in Spanish 31 Oct 93 p 4

[Text] Realizing that the date that had been set for the return of constitutional Haitian President Jean Bertrand Aristide to his country and to his legitimate position, as established in the Governor's Island Accord (New York, 3 July 1993), has passed, and in view of the difficulties facing Aristide's return to Haiti, Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu has affirmed:

—His strongest rejection of the violation of the agreements established in New York and the delay in President Aristide's return, calling for thorough compliance with the terms of these agreements.

—His hope that the efforts made by the OAS since the coup perpetrated in September 1991, and by the OAS/UN special envoy to Port-au-Prince, may soon lead to the normalization of the institutions in Haiti and to the full reestablishment of individual rights and guarantees.

Abreu also affirmed the Uruguayan Government's decision to implement the set of measures recommended by the United Nations, which includes a trade embargo, and to cooperate within this framework in the search for a mechanism that might facilitate a prompt restoration of democracy in Haiti.

Lastly, Minister Abreu fully supports the declaration of the president of the OAS Ad Hoc Foreign Ministers Meeting, Bolivian Foreign Minister Antonio Aranibar.

Discusses Trade Issues in Brazil

PY1211122493 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu returns from Brasilia tonight. In the Brazilian capital he said that he is against reaching a conclusion at any price simply to close the final stage of the Uruguay round of the GATT talks. Abreu, who is the Rio Group spokesman at the Uruguay round, analyzed with Brazilian President Itamar Franco the Latin American position, which calls for admitting their agricultural products without barriers into the industrialized countries' markets.

After concluding a three-day official visit to Brazil, the foreign minister emphasized the importance of establishing a joint Latin American strategy for being accepted in an unprejudiced manner in the international market, and for participating in the GATT talks under well-balanced rules.

Abreu said that he was aware of the complexity of the negotiations, but asserted that countries whose economies depend on the export of agricultural products have

the right to free themselves from protectionist rules that are translated into unfair trade practices and the granting of official subsidies to production.

Minister Abreu and his Brazilian counterpart Celso Amorim today presided over the second meeting of the Bilateral Coordination General Committee. During the meeting topics related to trade, border matters, land transportation, and Common Market of the South development were discussed.

New Interior Minister, Under Secretary Appointed

PY1311021193 Montevideo LA MANANA in Spanish 4 Nov 93 p 3

[Excerpt] At the end of a 3 November meeting at Esteves Palace between Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle and Dr. Raul Iturria, the president confirmed the designation of Dr. Iturria as the new interior minister. This resolution ratifies a report already published in advance by LA MANANA last week.

During the meeting between President Lacalle and Iturria, the president offered the post of interior minister to the current mayor of Durazno, who accepted the offer. According to government sources, the new minister will assume his post on 8 November while Dr. Luis Storace Montes, current director general of the ministry, will take over as the new Interior Ministry under secretary.

Raul Iturria, who was elected in the past elections as mayor of Durazno, will resign his post within the next few hours and will be replaced by current Town Council Secretary General Carmelo Bidelin.

Iturria will replace Juan Andres Ramirez as interior minister, who will return to his Senate seat, replacing Senator Cadenas Boix, who will leave his post to engage in private activities, as he himself said.

At the end of the meeting with President Lacalle, Dr. Iturria said on leaving Esteves Palace that he will "replace a great minister in Ramirez" and that "matching him will be very difficult," stressing the work carried out by the current minister.

We will try to make all possible efforts, Iturria said, and to do this we are going to have the support of Dr. Luis Storace, who will be the Interior Ministry under secretary, and whose continuing work in the ministry will facilitate the fulfillment of our task. [passage omitted]

Venezuela

Velasquez Calls for Democratic Affirmation Agreement

PA1111214493 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 6 Nov 93 p D11

[Report by Alicia Aguilar]

[Text] President Ramon J. Velasquez has urged all political parties to sign a Grand Agreement of Democratic Affirmation in mid-November—an agreement under which the parties will cast off their belligerent positions and make joint efforts to strengthen the political system.

During the installation of the National Mayors Council in the Ayacucho Room at Miraflores Palace, the president warned the political parties of the disadvantages of their being involved in a dirty war less than a month before the elections, when the country is demanding that its political leaders deal with the nation's problems and ways to resolve them.

Velasquez confessed to being concerned about the electoral process' "lack of past warmth, emotion, and ideological struggle."

I have tried to convince myself, he said, that democracy is so deeply rooted among us that each person knows what he is going to do on 5 December. I also hope that the democratic election process is as mature as in the United States or France, when elections are convened 15 days before the vote because everyone knows that he will vote on that day or vote by mail, and, if the elections are on a Sunday, they vote and go to mass and then turn on their televisions to see who won the election.

Without changing his tone, President Velasquez practically admitted to being upset over the feeble response to his summons to a National Agreement, although two of the most important sectors, business and labor—Fedecamaras [Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry] and the CTV [Confederation of Venezuelan Workers]—were willing to support it.

Velasquez asked: It is not possible for us to discuss three or four fundamental issues that will allow the next government, regardless of who wins the election, to get to work without having to deal with the problems of establishing a congressional majority, which is very difficult to do, or to start calling for support from those people whom I am now calling on?

Velasquez added that, despite the failure of the National Agreement, "there is one thing I would like to do." I am inviting the parties, candidates, the Supreme Court of Justice, governors, mayors, residents, the church, labor unions, and all who comprise "the true nation" to support a Great Agreement of Democratic Affirmation.

Velasquez Says Hand Over of Power To Be 2 Feb 1994

PA1311172593 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1630 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Caracas, 13 Nov (EFE)— Venezuelan President Ramon Velasquez ruled out today the possibility of advancing the transition of power to the winner of the

elections, which are scheduled for 5 December, and said that the hand over of power will be on 2 February 1994.

Last week Velasquez had hinted that the transition of power could be advanced due to the economic and political crisis in the country, but there are constitutional norms preventing it. Thus, the change of command will be on 2 February 1994, when the current presidential period ends. [passage omitted]

Suspends Parastate Enterprises' Privatization

PA1511025293 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0215 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Caracas, 14 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Venezuelan President Ramon J. Velasquez announced here today the suspension of parastate enterprises' privatization, the cancellation of bids, and the suspension of projects for as long as he remains in office.

The president said that "no more state enterprises will be privatized, no work contracts will be approved, and no concessions will be granted to private organizations for the remainder of my administration."

During his speech at the inauguration of the Second International Book Fair at Venezuela Square in Caracas, Velasquez said the decision was made known to those interested in purchasing enterprises owned by the Federal Government.

He added that during the 30 October council of ministers meeting, he asked his cabinet members—including the Venezuelan Investment Fund (FIV) president—to issue the announcement to possible buyers and thus prevent displeasure and friction.

The companies scheduled for privatization this year include the Venezuelan airline Aeropostal and Enelbar, Enelven, Enelco, and Central Plant electric enterprises, among others.

Moreover, the president said political parties' participation in connection with the theft of weapons following the foiled 4 February 1992 coup only discredit them 20 days before the presidential elections.

He said he "will not let judicial cases being handled by normal or special courts be used against any of the organizations that are currently participating in the electoral process."

Velasquez said the state's intelligence services are in charge of determining both the place and the persons involved in the weapons' theft.

Defense Minister Reports Arrests, Raids in Subversion Case

PA1311022093 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 12 Nov 93

[From "The News" newscast]

[Text] Defense Minister Vice Admiral Radames Munoz Leon announced at Miraflores Palace today that four people have been arrested so far on subversion charges in connection with a destabilization plot.

[Begin Munoz recording] Civilian Jose Roberto Rodriguez Rodriguez was arrested today. During this action, our personnel also seized a large number of weapons—particularly grenades—uniforms, documents, and so on. This information is currently being reviewed by the judge assigned to the case. As of today, the Intelligence Directorate is continuing with its actions, and, based on information it has obtained, and in line with instructions issued by the judge, it has conducted numerous raids. [end recording]

Alerts High Command to Possible Conspiracy

PA1411023193 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 12 Nov 93 p D-2

[Report by Jesus Eduardo Brandao]

[Text] Defense Minister Vice Admiral Radames Munoz Leon called a meeting of the expanded Armed Forces High Command in Fort Tiuna on 11 November. He informed his subordinates of the results of investigations into an alleged conspiracy related to the 10 November incidents at the Yare Jail, military sources reported.

According to the sources, although the High Command holds regular weekly meetings, the 11 November meeting was particularly important because the country has practically entered the last phase of the national campaign for the presidential and congressional elections.

Also present at the meeting were Inspector General Manuel Andara Clavier, Chief of Staff Ismael Guzman, Commanding Generals Jorge Isaac Tagliaferro De Lima (Army), Julian Enrique Mauco Quintana (Navy), Freddy Yanes Mendez (Air Force), and Pedro Romero Farias (National Guard), generals and admirals of the Federal District Garrison and Miranda State, and plan directors Fernan Barroso Fuenmayor and Jose De la Cruz Pineda, who is also director of the Military Intelligence Directorate, DIM.

Minister Munoz Leon informed the military commanders of the reasons for alerting them to a possible plot. He added that 200 people are currently under investigation based on a list prepared by the DIM, which reportedly was submitted to Military Judge Colonel Ramon Moreno Natera, who will review the case and summon the main suspects. Meanwhile, the press has been denied access to the military installations.

The list announced by Minister Munoz Leon surprised political and judicial circles and the general public as there is no concrete evidence. It was learned, however, that the military forces are considering the possibility that there could be mass mobilizations of political groups on election day intended to pressure the Supreme

Electoral Council. Such a mobilization would disrupt public order and would therefore have to be repressed.

The flow of information has been hampered by recent incidents at the Yare Jail, as the commanders and officers who are under arrest for their participation in the 4 February coup are incommunicado in accordance with a ministerial decision.

According to reports, Admiral Munoz Leon reportedly did not like a statement made by Commander Hugo Chavez [leader of the 4 February 1992 coup attempt] after a national flag the arrested soldiers hoisted daily was confiscated. Munoz Leon said the arrested soldiers were carrying out an act of insubordination as they are still active military personnel.

Sources close to the arrested soldiers said the situation worsened when a relative of one of the inmates managed to bring another flag into the jail, which they raised in contravention of the prohibition. Following this action, the defense minister ordered the National Guard to raid the jail, which that corps did, reportedly in a violent manner.

Other matters discussed during the meeting were related to the emergencies of the past two weeks due to alleged technical failures in the main units of the Guri hydroelectric complex in Bolivar State. The commanders agreed to reinforce security and reviewed alternate operations to prevent the reoccurrence of serious power interruptions and special measures to guarantee the service during the 5 December elections.

Army Recognizes Existence of Conspiracy Against Velasquez

PA1411023493 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2341 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Caracas, 13 Nov (NOTIMEX)—The Venezuelan Army today recognized the existence of a conspiracy against President Ramon Velasquez less than one month before the 5 December elections for president and legislators.

Defense Minister Vice Admiral Radames Munoz Leon said "we are dismantling anarchist cells linked to a civilian conspiracy so we can guarantee Venezuelans calm elections."

He considered the possibility that the movement may be financed with money obtained in bank robberies throughout country. He said that an investigation is being conducted to establish the relationship between four people who were arrested and those who might be financing them.

Munoz denied that a search is under way for military personnel or that any military personnel have been arrested as was stated several days ago by journalist Jose Vicente Rangel, who said the defense minister knew the names of four military people involved in the plot.

He added that the police have raided 34 homes in the country and said a military judge will investigate journalist Jose Vicente Rangel.

Munoz consigned to tribunals some 200 presumed civilian conspirators, including politicians and journalists, for alleged undemocratic activities.

Authorities Arrest Liaison Between Officers, Coupists

PA1211192593 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 12 Nov 93 P 4-30

[Report by Berenice Gomez Velasquez]

[Text] Three citizens were arrested by the DIM [Directorate of Military Intelligence] for their alleged participation in subversive activities. The prisoners are architect Nedo Paniz Gory, economist Gustavo Lemoine, and administrator Carlos Tinoco, who made up the Patriotic Society Board of Directors, which coordinates the civilian issues of the MBR-200 [200 Revolutionary Bolivarian Movement], it was revealed by military intelligence sources.

Rear Admiral Radames Munoz Leon reported on Wednesday evening there were three prisoners at the DIM for their alleged participation in a conspiracy. The intelligence source reported the group acted as messengers between MBR-200 military leaders and the 4 February, 5 July, and 27 November coupists. These three men had access to the "Lino de Clemente" Battalion, San Carlos Barracks, Yare, and other facilities where officers were being tried for participating in coups.

Intelligence sources said it is clear these persons smuggled in cellular telephones, computers, and cameras, and camcorders. They are charged with recording and distributing the videotape that featured Lieutenant Colonel Hugo Chavez Frias' harangue, broadcast on 27 November in a national network instead of Rear Admiral [Hernan] Gruber Odreman's recording.

The DIM conducted numerous raids and confiscated a large number of documents—including some classified as "secret"—belonging to a state security corps and which analyze the reasons why the two coups d'etat in Venezuela and coups d'etat in various Latin American countries failed.

The authorities also found documents on Army Lt. Col. Hugo Chavez Frias' proposal to the 27 November coup leaders, meaning the 5 July Movement leaders, to comprise a coordinating board in which Chavez would be the leader. The proposal did not receive a favorable reply from the San Carlos Barracks and it received a negative reply from General [Francisco] Visconti Osorio in Peru.

According to intelligence experts, another batch of documents shows the group coordinated the actions of three irregular commando groups which operate in Turimiquire, between Sucre, Monagas, and Anzoategui,

and part of Guarico. These represent the reactivation of Red Flag's "Americo Silva Front" and Third Path.

According to investigators, the group worked to prevent the 5 December elections. Intelligence work continues, seeking possible MBR-200 ramifications within the FAN [National Armed Forces]. The groups are made up of 150 individuals and operate in 20-man platoons. They are financed by the "vaccine" or revolutionary tax—which is nothing more than a toll for agricultural producers—as well as kidnappings and bank robberies in the zone. The documents and intelligence investigation show the group collected more than 1 million bolivares to send to Peru, but only 100,000 bolivares arrived there....they stole the rest.

The DIM is investigating a group of Cubans who arrived and remained in the country as "sports monitors," cement workers, and agricultural advisers—and it turns out they are members of the Cuban DGI [General Directorate for Intelligence] and are training subversives in various states.

The DIM sent a military group to the zone, led by a colonel, who interrogated each and every one of the people responsible for the blackouts—and he determined it was not the result of sabotage, only lack of maintenance and criminal negligence that will provoke at least two more blackouts.

The only electricity substation that operated during the emergency was the one in La Fria.

The DIM is conducting an investigation and it will arrest businessmen who want to claim losses and obtain fat profits from the blackout—by reporting millions of bolivares in losses. Such is the case of a poultry producer who claims the loss of 380,000 kg of poultry due to lack of refrigeration for two hours—when the limit is 10 hours outside a refrigerator—and the case of Venalum, which reported losses in excess of 150 tons of aluminum, when these enterprises have always reported losses.

Foreign Minister Reaffirms Nation's 'Democratic Nature'

PA1211013293 Caracas Radio Caracas Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 11 Nov 93

[From "The Observer" newscast]

[Text] The Venezuelan Foreign Ministry recognizes that in our country there has been an increase of human rights violations on the part of police and military authorities, as was reported by Amnesty International, because of the nation's current political crisis. Unay Amenar has a report from the Miraflores Palace:

[Begin recording] [Amenar, in progress] ...two-time winner of the Nobel Peace prize of Amnesty International, Venezuela should dedicate itself to eliminating deficiencies in the defense of individual rights in three fundamental areas—legal, penal, and relations between authorities and citizens.

[Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich] It is fair that the world should recognize that Venezuela and its people are striving to preserve peace and institutional order. We are living through perhaps the most serious crisis experienced by Venezuela in the 20th century. Nevertheless, the Venezuelan people have clearly demonstrated their democratic nature and civic maturity. Because of this, we are just one month away from elections, and I am sure we will reach that moment. On that day, the Venezuelan people will freely elect the new president of the Republic. [end recording]

Economic Sanctions Against South Africa To Be Lifted

MB1111160093 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1357 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Windhoek, 11 Nov SAPA—The Venezuelen Government on Thursday announced the lifting of economic sanctions against South Africa and said it would investigate the establishment of diplomatic relations. A statement issued by the Venezuelan Embassy in the Namibian capital, Windhoek, said the sociopolitical tranformation in South Africa since 1990 and the dismantling of apartheid had contributed to the decision to lift sanctions. The statement said in light of African National Congress President Nelson Mandela's recent speech at the United Nations as well as recommendations by the special ministerial meeting of the Organisation for African Unity and the United Nations General Assembly resolution of 8 October, the Venezuelan Government had decided to lift sanctions.

National Convergence Leader on Elections

PA1111004193 Caracas Radio Caracas Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Interview with Venezuelan National Convergence Coordinator Edecio La Riva Araujo by Eladio Lares at the Radio Caracas Television studios in Caracas—live]

[Text] [Lares] Our guest tonight, Edecio La Riva Araujo, a very distinguished leader of the Social Christian Party [Copei] and founder of Copei, is no longer in Copei. He now is a member of National Convergence which supports the candidacy of Rafael Caldera. You may recall that a few years ago he tossed his hat into the ring, hoping to become Copei's presidential candidate. I repeat, he is now supporting Caldera. My question is as follows: Are you more of a Caldera supporter than a Copei supporter?

[La Riva] No. I had to make a choice at a necessarily critical point in my life. In terms of economic policy, when facing a choice between neoliberalism and Christian socialism, I chose Christian socialism. When choosing between a new friend and an old friend, I chose

the old friend. Therefore, I did not experience any traumas, although I feel some nostalgia about Copei. I believe, however, I am right, and the country will prove that Caldera and I are right. The people know a lot. I have learned a lot from them. We are [words indistinct] being the program.

Perhaps the election campaign lacks the thrill of the first years of democracy, where we had motorcades, rallies....

[Lares, interrupting] What is the difference between this campaign and earlier ones?

[La Riva] The thrill that existed before in the streets. We had large motorcades and rallies. We had great arguments.

[Lares] Could it be that the country is a little disenchanted with the political message?

[La Riva] No. Perhaps part of it is disenchantment, but the other part is maturity. The people will not let themselves be swayed by a rally, a motorcade, or street propaganda; they think too much to allow this to happen. With television, radio.... [pauses] A peasant who is out working the fields has his radio on and is listening to all of the programs on all of the radio stations. Television has had a decisive influence in the world. Television is the people's true Ministry of Education. For this reason, Eladio, in December, a few days from now, we will witness a historic event, something that has not happend in Venezuelan lately.

I was telling you we are a privileged generation, because we are making major changes in the country's life. Who could have imagined three or four years ago that Carlos Andres Perez would fall so resoundingly? Who could have imagined that the Supreme Court of Justice was going to sentence a president or begin legal proceedings against him, or that a Congress dominated by Copei or Democratic Action [AD] would try a president, two AD presidents? Therefore, are these not extraordinary things? And do you know who we owe it all to? I do not know if it is unwise of me to say this, but we owe it to Commander Hugo Chavez [leader of 4 February 1992 coup attempt].

[Lares] Why?

[La Riva] Without Chavez, Caldera would not have delivered the 4 February speech. Without Chavez, the Supreme Court of Justice would not have been reshuffled, and the court would not have started a preliminary hearing on Carlos Andres Perez. Without Chavez, Perez would not have been ousted. Without Chavez, Ramon Velasquez would not have become president.

[Lares] Talking of changes and historic moments, can you talk to us a little about National Convergence? National Convergence is a circumstantial movement that only responds to the historic election period, because there are things few people understand, such as your rapprochement with the traditional leftist movements. Who took the first step? Did the left moved toward you, or did you move to the left? Did the Movement Toward Socialism [MAS] and the Communist Party of Venezuela [PCV] move toward National Convergence, or did National Convergence seek out MAS or PCV? Will you not explain to us this very strange occurrence?

[La Riva] I would be glad to. Convenience is a historic situation. It consists of unique events in the history of this country that are culminating in the breakdown of the political parties. The people, who really believed in the political parties 30, 20, or 15 years ago. [incomplete sentence as heard]

[Lares] Is National Convergence the seed of something?

[La Riva] Yes, of course.

[Lares] Is it going to be a political party?

[La Riva] Yes, of course.

[Lares] It is?

[La Riva] It is the seed by which a great many circumstances are converging that will change the history of this country. I sincerely believe we are living in a period of transition, which is why you are seeing so many unusual things.

[Lares] It is unbelievable that the left is with you.

[La Riva] Yes. First of all, Eladio, the left does not exist in Venezuela. That was before, when there used to be a leftist party, the PCV or MAS. None of these leftist parties. [incomplete sentence as heard] Therefore, there is no movement here but, rather, a transformation. Just after the Federal War of the last century, everybody was afraid to say they were rightists, Mantuano or Godo, because the Yellow Liberal Party with its victory in the Federal War did away with the Godos. Remember that phrase from the Federal War: Quiver, oligarchs! They quivered saying: No, I am not a rightist.

Today, it is the other way around. Today people say: No, I am not a leftist. Everybody, even Radical Cause presidential candidate Andres Velasquez, says he is not a leftist. We have had major transformations in the country.

National Convergence is emerging at a historic time in which Caldera, a visionary during an extraordinary period in the country's life, saw that the parties were in clear decline, as Aristobulo Isturiz and his Radical Cause Party proved in Caracas. The victory of Isturiz and Radical Cause Party is nothing other than a reaction by the Venezuelan people against Copei and AD. They sought the protest vote against the other parties. This is why this movement emerged and is making headway in the country without publicity or anything. Many things have been proven. Money or, let us say, publicity does not control the sentiments of the people.

[Lares] Not long ago, a few National Convergence representatives, including Julio Sosa Rodriguez, went to the United States. There, Sosa said the Perez package of economic measures will not undergo major changes. This is somewhat at odds with remarks by Caldera. Will you, as founder, mentor, and the leading figure of your group, explain this to us? Under a future Caldera government, will the Perez economic package be changed?

[La Riva] Yes, it will undoubtedly be changed. Nevertheless, the economic package, despite all of its flaws and the false premises that it created, brought about a change in the country's macroeconomic structures.

[Lares] Do we not then have two messages? Yes, it will be changed...

[La Riva, interrupting] Yes, the package is going to be changed, no doubt. Caldera is convinced that many of the packages's flaws are the cause hunger and the disappearance of the middle class, because the package is so bad...

[Lares, interrupting] Quickly, what are the major points to be changed?

[La Riva] These are the major points to be changed. Caldera is... [pauses] Let us begin from the economic standpoint. Let us begin from a different basis.

[Lares] We are running out of time.

[La Riva] On the economic side, the package led to the enrichment of a group on top and the impoverishment of the lower and middle classes. These classes were wiped out. Let me tell you something that happened to me at home with my wife. I was at home with friends, and someone asked: What happened? You said the middle class was wiped out, and, so, where do you stand? I am upper lower class, she said. So you see, the collective sentiment is that...

[Lares, interrupting] The package will not be changed then?

[La Riva] Yes, from the economic standpoint. Take the value- added tax [VAT], for instance—Caldera is certainly against the VAT.

[Lares] How about the increase in the price of gasoline?

[La Riva] One has to study this because the world is undergoing changes in the field of oil. Some have discussed this topic at such extremes to say oil is no longer the heart of the country's economic life.

This is not the case. Crude oil continues to be this country's core, as well as its fundamental [word indistinct]. What is really needed is a change with respect to the government's crude oil policy. I will give you an example.

In the Costa Rican agreement, we give a discount to Costa Rica as well as to all of Central America in order to sell crude oil to the region. Why did we agree to do this? Because those nations were experiencing tremendous demand and, at the same time, were practically broke. Then Venezuela, in a gesture of Latin American solidarity decided to [words indistinct] in agreement with Mexico because it had several problems. Well, now it turns out that Venezuela is the one with problems, and we must look to crude oil in an effort to see how we can get the most benefit out of our crude oil policies.

There is an assumption currently going around the country suggesting that Venezuela should sell crude oil to the United States to... [pauses] U.S. hemispheric and energy policy requires a strategic reserve. The United States currently does not have strategic reserves. In this respect, Venezuela could offer the United States that strategic reserve, or cover whatever difference is needed to satisfy the strategic reserve and sell it at a 10- or 15-percent discount. Did we not sell crude oil to Costa Rica at that same discount price when it was practically broke?

Well, today we are practically broke, and, therefore, we can sell at a discount for our own benefit. There would be enough revenue from sales to the United States which could help us to cover our fiscal deficit as well as a portion of our foreign debt. Nevertheless, to do this we must be quite daring.

Then, there is the moral issue to consider. There must also be changes in this field. We now have a man who is very honest, decent, dignified, and not a hypocrite. He is also a man who will give much needed prestige to a Presidency that had degenerated to a den of liars, thieves, and scoundrels. This is no longer the case. We now have a dignified person who can lead this country with rectitude.

[Lares] [words indistinct] Thank you very much, Dr. Evesio La Riva, and good luck. To you television viewers, see you tomorrow.

Radical Cause Denies Possessing Stolen Arms

PA1411150793 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Report by Ligia Moreno and Agneris Gonzalez from "The News" newscast]

[Text] The Radical Cause Party and Deputy Pablo Medina have categorically denied charges made against them by Lieutenant Raul Alvarez Bracamonte with regard to weapons stolen from Fort Tiuna.

A statement by Lt. Alvarez Bracamonte has created a great controversy. He directly accused Deputy Pablo Medina of having in his possession weapons stolen from Conejo Blanco. Reactions to this charge were not long in coming. Both Pablo Medina and Radical Cause expressed their views by claiming that these accusations are part of a well-planned strategy drawn up by unscrupulous individuals who are trying to destabilize the system to block the upcoming presidential elections.

Radical Cause leader Pablo Medina said two people apparently under arrest at the Directorate of Military Intelligence, DIM, have no links to his political movement. He also noted that he had absolutely no connections to the case, because Lt. Otaiza Castillo is the person accused of possessing weapons stolen from Fort Tiuna.

[Begin Medina recording] In order to leave the jail at the San Carlos Garrison—where he shares the same cell with Monsalve Planchart, which is an interesting journalistic detail—Lt. Alvarez Bracamonte must have had the authorization of the defense minister, who ordered him to be court-martialed. This corrupt plot was mounted against Radical Cause within the framework of the court-martial in violation of legal procedures, which is punishable by the Military Code of Justice. [end recording]

Radical Cause has appealed to the defense minister, asking him to call a truce that will allow all Venezuelans to peacefully take part in the 5 December elections, casting their votes to elect the president who will govern the nation for the next five years.

Meanwhile, agents of the Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services, DISIP, arrested two individuals who are presumably members of the 200 Bolivarian Movement and who apparently participated in the theft of military equipment from Fort Tiuna, together with Army Lt. Alvarez Bracamonte.

DISIP Commissary General Tulio Guerrero Arroyo announced the arrest of Osvaldo Ernesto Villafranca Blanco, a 34-year-old lawyer, and Ramon Gavidia Rodriguez. Both men, who sell fish, were intercepted in Las Flores, Kathia, after an intensive search requested by the DIM, which will take custody of them on Monday [15 November].

Guyana

Guyana Calls for 'Complete and Total Blockade'

FL1011132593 Bridgetown CANA in English 2158 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, 9 Nov, CANA—The Guyana Government on Tuesday called for a "complete and total blockade" of Haiti to force the military to restore the country's democratically elected president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, to power.

The Foreign Ministry, in a statement, said the international community has a duty to redouble its efforts towards achieving a resumption of democracy in the troubled French-speaking Caribbean country.

"In this context, the Government of Guyana calls for the imposition of new and more severe sanctions against Haiti to add to the existing ones. These should be accompanied by a complete and total blockade of the country to ensure that such sanctions are enforced," the Foreign Ministry said.

It described such actions as consistent with re-establishing constitutional order and consolidating democracy in Haiti, as urged by the Caribbean Community, Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Suriname at last month's Port of Spain Summit.

"In advocating that the illegal government in Haiti be made to feel the full force of the international community's displeasure, the Government of Guyana also wishes to urge that attempts to thwart that course of action through sanctions-breaking cease forthwith," the ministry added. Collective action, it suggested, should also be taken against sanction breakers.

It said: "At a time when democracy and good government feature prominently in the preoccupations of the United Nations, the unconstitutional rulers in Haiti must not be allowed to further entrench themselves in power. Haiti must be the maximum point of retreat for democracy."

Guyana is backing international efforts to restore Aristide to power, over two years after his ouster, under a UN-brokered peace plan. A U.S.-led naval blockade is now in force around the island.

Robaina Remarks on Haiti, Relations With U.S. Cited

FL1311160393 Bridgetown CANA in English 1453 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, 13 Nov, [dateline as received] CANA—Cuba is against international sanctions and the US naval blockade around Haiti, Cuba's foreign minister, Roberto Robaina Gonzalez, has said.

He told reporters Cuba wanted to see negotiations, rather than threats, in the bid to have ousted Haitian president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide reinstated.

"We stress the fact that such a complicated matter should be resolved through the channels of negotiations and one cannot negotiate by launching threats," he told reporters before leaving here for Barbados.

Robaina said Cuba, which for several years has faced a US trade embargo, was willing to hold unconditional talks with the United States, but was demanding mutual respect.

"Those direct negotiations are quite far from becoming a reality as long as they don't rectify some questions that have to do in our case with questions that are very serious to us today," he said.

There are however contacts between the two countries in migration, coast guard and border guard services, joint anti-drug activities and sports and limited discussions in telecommunications.

He accused the US of frustrating business any deals Cuba strikes with foreign companies. Eight out of every ten deals, he told reporters, were disrupted by America.

"The United States is, through pressure, trying to strangehold us," he complained.

Foreign Minister Comments on Issue of Envoy to Venezuela

FL1311164093 Bridgetown CANA in English 1507 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, 13 Nov, CANA—Guyana's foreign affairs minister, Clement Rohee, has acknowledged that the ambassador-designate for Caracas was dropped at the last moment from an accreditation ceremony for five diplomats at Venezuela's presidential palace a week ago.

Rohee told CANA Satyedev "Sash" Sawh's name was taken off the accreditation list following a request by a powerful Venezuelan congressman probing reports that Sawh was a convicted felon.

"As a result of the query that was raised by the chairman of the Venezuelan congress for foreign relations (Pacino Padron) to the president of the republic, the president conceded to the request of the congressman and having done that, a process flowed from there," Rohee said.

Sawh was reportedly convicted in August, 1989 in Scarborough, Toronto of forgery and uttering a forged document. He was fined and placed on one year's probation, according to reports here.

The Guyanese minister said Sawh's nomination was being delayed by a probe into the conviction report being mounted by the Venezuelan Congress, a separate arm of Venezuela's constitutional framework.

"We are not in possession of information to the effect that Mr. Sawh has a criminal background," he said.

"We are in receipt of information with respect to the course or the court case pertaining to Mr. Sawh and the findings of the (Canadian) judge who tried Mr. Sawh and we have transmitted those pieces of information to the Venezuelan Government."